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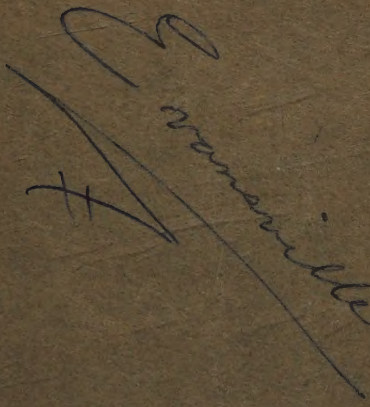

FOUR GREAT AMERICANS

WASHINGTON WEBSTER FRANKLIN LINCOLN

A BOOK FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

BY

JAMES BALDWIN, PH. D.

NEW YORK ∴ CINCINNATI ∴ CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

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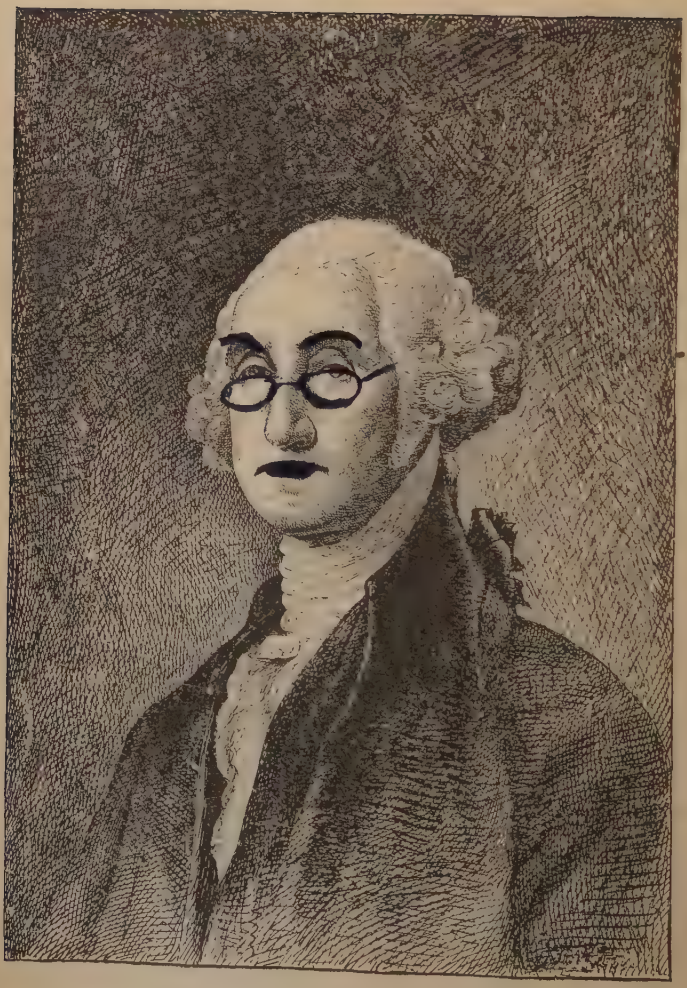
THE STORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



THE STORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

I.—When Washington was a Boy.

When George Washington was a boy there was no United States. The land was here, just as it is now, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific; but nearly all of it was wild and unknown.

Between the Atlantic Ocean and the Alleghany Mountains there were thirteen colonies, or great settlements. The most of the people who lived in these colonies were English people, or the children of English people; and so the King of England made their laws and appointed their governors.

The newest of the colonies was Georgia, which was settled the year after George Washington was born.

The oldest colony was Virginia, which had been settled one hundred and twenty-five years.

It was also the richest colony, and more people were living in it than in any other.

There were only two or three towns in Virginia at that time, and they were quite small.

Most of the people lived on farms or on big plantations, where they raised whatever they needed to eat. They also raised tobacco, which they sent to England to be sold.

The farms, or plantations, were often far apart, with stretches of thick woods between them. Nearly every one was close to a river, or some other large body of water; for there are many rivers in Virginia.

There were no roads, such as we have nowadays, but only paths through the woods. When people wanted to travel from place to place, they had to go on foot, or on horseback, or in small boats.

A few of the rich men who lived on the big plantations had coaches; and now and then they would drive out in grand style behind four or six horses, with a fine array of servants and outriders following them. But they could not drive

far where there were no roads, and we can hardly understand how they got any pleasure out of it.

Nearly all the work on the plantations was done by slaves. Ships had been bringing negroes from Africa for more than a hundred years, and now nearly half the people in Virginia were blacks.

Very often, also, poor white men from England were sold as slaves for a few years in order to pay for their passage across the ocean. When their freedom was given to them they continued to work at whatever they could find to do; or they cleared small farms in the woods for themselves, or went farther to the west and became woodsmen and hunters.

There was but very little money in Virginia at that time, and, indeed, there was not much use for it. For what could be done with money where there were no shops worth speaking of, and no stores, and nothing to buy?

The common people raised flax and wool, and wove their own cloth; and they made their own tools and furniture. The rich people did the

same; but for their better or finer goods they sent to England.

For you must know that in all this country there were no great mills for spinning and weaving as there are now; there were no factories of any kind; there were no foundries where iron could be melted and shaped into all kinds of useful and beautiful things.

When George Washington was a boy the world was not much like it is now.

II.—His Homes.

George Washington's father owned a large plantation on the western shore of the Potomac River. George's great-grandfather, John Washington, had settled upon it nearly eighty years before, and there the family had dwelt ever since.

This plantation was in Westmoreland county, not quite forty miles above the place where the Potomac flows into Chesapeake Bay. By looking at your map of Virginia, you will see that the river is very broad there.

On one side of the plantation, and flowing

through it, there was a creek, called Bridge's Creek; and for this reason the place was known as the Bridge's Creek Plantation.

It was here, on the 22d of February, 1732, that George Washington was born.

Although his father was a rich man, the house in which he lived was neither very large nor very fine—at least it would not be thought so now.

It was a square, wooden building, with four rooms on the ground floor and an attic above.

The eaves were low, and the roof was long and sloping. At each end of the house there was a huge chimney; and inside were big fireplaces, one for the kitchen and one for the "great room" where visitors were received.

But George did not live long in this house. When he was about three years old his father removed to another plantation which he owned, near Hunting Creek, several miles farther up the river. This new plantation was at first known as the Washington Plantation, but it is now called Mount Vernon.

Four years after this the house of the Washing-

tons was burned down. But Mr. Washington had still other lands on the Rappahannock River. He had also an interest in some iron mines that were being opened there. And so to this place the family was now taken.

The house by the Rappahannock was very much like the one at Bridge's Creek. It stood on high ground, overlooking the river and some low meadows; and on the other side of the river was the village of Fredericksburg, which at that time was a very small village, indeed.

George was now about seven years old.

III.—His Schools and Schoolmasters.

There were no good schools in Virginia at that time. In fact, the people did not care much about learning.

There were few educated men besides the parsons, and even some of the parsons were very ignorant.

It was the custom of some of the richest families to send their eldest sons to England to the

great schools there. But it is doubtful if these young men learned much about books.

They spent a winter or two in the gay society of London, and were taught the manners of gentlemen—and that was about all.

George Washington's father, when a young man, had spent some time at Appleby School in England, and George's half-brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, who were several years older than he, had been sent to the same school.

But book-learning was not thought to be of much use. To know how to manage the business of a plantation, to be polite to one's equals, to be a leader in the affairs of the colony—this was thought to be the best education.

And so, for most of the young men, it was enough if they could read and write a little and keep a few simple accounts. As for the girls, the parson might give them a few lessons now and then; and if they learned good manners and could write letters to their friends, what more could they need?

George Washington's first teacher was a poor

sexton, whose name was Mr. Hobby. There is a story that he had been too poor to pay his passage from England, and that he had, therefore, been sold to Mr. Washington as a slave for a short time; but how true this is, I cannot say.

From Mr. Hobby, George learned to spell easy words, and perhaps to write a little; but, although he afterward became a very careful and good penman, he was a poor speller as long as he lived.

When George was about eleven years old his father died. We do not know what his father's intentions had been regarding him. But possibly, if he had lived, he would have given George the best education that his means would afford.

But now everything was changed. The plantation at Hunting Creek; and, indeed, almost all the rest of Mr. Washington's great estate, became the property of the eldest son, Lawrence.

George was sent to Bridge's Creek to live for a while with his brother Augustine, who now owned the old home plantation there. The

mother and the younger children remained on the Rappahannock farm.

While at Bridge's Creek, George was sent to school to a Mr. Williams, who had lately come from England.

There are still to be seen some exercises which the lad wrote at that time. There is also a little book, called *The Young Man's Companion*, from which he copied, with great care, a set of rules for good behavior and right living.

Not many boys twelve years old would care for such a book nowadays. But you must know that in those days there were no books for children, and, indeed, very few for older people.

The maxims and wise sayings which George copied were, no doubt, very interesting to him — so interesting that many of them were never forgotten.

There are many other things also in this *Young Man's Companion*, and we have reason to believe that George studied them all.

There are short chapters on arithmetic and surveying, rules for the measuring of land and

lumber, and a set of forms for notes, deeds, and other legal documents. A knowledge of these things was, doubtless, of greater importance to him than the reading of many books would have been.

Just what else George may have studied in Mr. Williams's school I cannot say. But all this time he was growing to be a stout, manly boy, tall and strong, and well-behaved. And both his brothers and himself were beginning to think of what he should do when he should become a man.

IV.—Going to Sea.

Once every summer a ship came up the river to the plantation, and was moored near the shore.

It had come across the sea from far-away England, and it brought many things for those who were rich enough to pay for them.

It brought bonnets and pretty dresses for George's mother and sisters; it brought perhaps a hat and a tailor-made suit for himself; it brought tools and furniture, and once a yellow

coach that had been made in London, for his brother.

When all these things had been taken ashore, the ship would hoist her sails and go on, farther up the river, to leave goods at other plantations.

In a few weeks it would come back and be moored again at the same place.

Then there was a busy time on shore. The tobacco that had been raised during the last year must be carried on shipboard to be taken to the great tobacco markets in England.

The slaves on the plantation were running back and forth, rolling barrels and carrying bales of tobacco down to the landing.

Letters were written to friends in England, and orders were made out for the goods that were to be brought back next year.

But in a day or two, all this stir was over. The sails were again spread, and the ship glided away on its long voyage across the sea.

George had seen this ship coming and going every year since he could remember. He must have thought how pleasant it would be to sail

away to foreign lands and see the many wonderful things that are there.

And then, like many another active boy, he began to grow tired of the quiet life on the farm, and wish that he might be a sailor.

He was now about fourteen years old. Since the death of his father, his mother had found it hard work, with her five children, to manage her farm on the Rappahannock and make everything come out even at the end of each year. Was it not time that George should be earning something for himself? But what should he do?

He wanted to go to sea. His brother Lawrence, and even his mother, thought that this might be the best thing.

A bright boy like George would not long be a common sailor. He would soon make his way to a high place in the king's navy. So, at least, his friends believed.

And so the matter was at last settled. A sea-captain who was known to the family, agreed to take George with him. He was to sail in a short time.

The day came. His mother, his brothers, his sisters, were all there to bid him good-bye. But in the meanwhile a letter had come to his mother, from his uncle who lived in England.

"If you care for the boy's future," said the letter, "do not let him go to sea. Places in the king's navy are not easy to obtain. If he begins as a sailor, he will never be aught else."

The letter convinced George's mother—it half convinced his brothers—that this going to sea would be a sad mistake. But George, like other boys of his age, was headstrong. He would not listen to reason. A sailor he would be.

The ship was in the river waiting for him. A boat had come to the landing to take him on board.

The little chest which held his clothing had been carried down to the bank. George was in high glee at the thought of going.

"Good-bye, mother," he said.

He stood on the doorstep and looked back into the house. He saw the kind faces of those whom he loved. He began to feel very sad at the thought of leaving them.

"Good-bye, George!"

He saw the tears welling up in his mother's eyes. He saw them rolling down her cheeks. He knew now that she did not want him to go. He could not bear to see her grief.

"Mother, I have changed my mind," he said. "I will not be a sailor. I will not leave you."

Then he turned to the black boy who was waiting by the door, and said, "Run down to the landing and tell them not to put the chest on board. Tell them that I have thought differently of the matter and that I am going to stay at home."

If George had not changed his mind, but had really gone to sea, how very different the history of this country would have been!

He now went to his studies with a better will than before; and although he read but few books he learned much that was useful to him in life. He studied surveying with especial care, and made himself as thorough in that branch of knowledge as it was possible to do with so few advantages.

V.—The Young Surveyor.

Lawrence Washington was about fourteen years older than his brother George.

As I have already said, he had been to England and had spent some time at Appleby school. He had served in the king's army for a little while, and had been with Admiral Vernon's squadron in the West Indies.

He had formed so great a liking for the admiral that when he came home he changed the name of his plantation at Hunting Creek, and called it Mount Vernon—a name by which it is still known.

Not far from Mount Vernon there was another fine plantation called Belvoir, that was owned by William Fairfax, an English gentleman of much wealth and influence.

Now this Mr. Fairfax had a young daughter, as wise as she was beautiful; and so, what should Lawrence Washington do but ask her to be his wife? He built a large house at Mount Vernon with a great [illegible] sting on the Potomac; and

when Miss Fairfax became Mrs. Washington and went into this home as its mistress, people said that there was not a handsomer or happier young couple in all Virginia.

After young George Washington had changed his mind about going to sea, he went up to Mount Vernon to live with his elder brother. For Lawrence had great love for the boy, and treated him as his father would have done.

At Mount Vernon George kept on with his studies in surveying. He had a compass and surveyor's chain, and hardly a day passed that he was not out on the plantation, running lines and measuring his brother's fields.

Sometimes when he was busy at this kind of work, a tall, white-haired gentleman would come over from Belvoir to see what he was doing and to talk with him. This gentleman was Sir Thomas Fairfax, a cousin of the owner of Belvoir. He was sixty years old, and had lately come from England to look after his lands in Virginia; for he was the owner of many thousands of acres among the mountains and in the wild woods.

Sir Thomas was a courtly old gentleman, and he had seen much of the world. He was a fine scholar; he had been a soldier, and then a man of letters; and he belonged to a rich and noble family.

It was not long until he and George were the best of friends. Often they would spend the morning together, talking or surveying; and in the afternoon they would ride out with servants and hounds, hunting foxes and making fine sport of it among the woods and hills.

And when Sir Thomas Fairfax saw how manly and brave his young friend was, and how very exact and careful in all that he did, he said: "Here is a boy who gives promise of great things. I can trust him."

Before the winter was over he had made a bargain with George to survey his lands that lay beyond the Blue Ridge mountains.

I have already told you that at this time nearly all the country west of the mountains was a wild and unknown region. In fact, all the western part of Virginia was an unbroken wilderness,

with only here and there a hunter's camp or the solitary hut of some daring woodsman.

But Sir Thomas hoped that by having the land surveyed, and some part of it laid out into farms, people might be persuaded to go there and settle. And who in all the colony could do this work better than his young friend, George Washington?

It was a bright day in March, 1748, when George started out on his first trip across the mountains. His only company was a young son of William Fairfax of Belvoir.

The two friends were mounted on good horses; and both had guns, for there was fine hunting in the woods. It was nearly a hundred miles to the mountain-gap through which they passed into the country beyond. As there were no roads, but only paths through the forest, they could not travel very fast.

After several days they reached the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah. They now began their surveying. They went up the river for some distance; then they crossed and went down

on the other side. At last they reached the Potomac River, near where Harper's Ferry now stands.

At night they slept sometimes by a camp-fire in the woods, and sometimes in the rude hut of a settler or a hunter. They were often wet and cold. They cooked their meat by broiling it on sticks above the coals. They ate without dishes, and drank water from the running streams.

One day they met a party of Indians, the first red men they had seen. There were thirty of them, with their bodies painted in true savage style; for they were just going home from a war with some other tribe.

The Indians were very friendly to the young surveyors. It was evening, and they built a huge fire under the trees. Then they danced their war-dance around it, and sang and yelled and made hideous sport until far in the night.

To George and his friend it was a strange sight; but they were brave young men, and not likely to be afraid even though the danger had been greater.

They had many other adventures in the woods

of which I cannot tell you in this little book—shooting wild game, swimming rivers, climbing mountains. But about the middle of April they returned in safety to Mount Vernon.

It would seem that the object of this first trip was to get a general knowledge of the extent of Sir Thomas Fairfax's great woodland estate—to learn where the richest bottom lands lay, and where were the best hunting-grounds.

The young men had not done much if any real surveying; they had been exploring.

George Washington had written an account of everything in a little note-book which he carried with him.

Sir Thomas was so highly pleased with the report which the young men brought back that he made up his mind to move across the Blue Ridge and spend the rest of his life on his own lands.

And so, that very summer, he built in the midst of the great woods a hunting lodge which he called Greenway Court. It was a large, square house, with broad gables and a long roof sloping almost to the ground.

When he moved into this lodge he expected soon to build a splendid mansion and make a grand home there, like the homes he had known in England. But time passed, and as the lodge was roomy and comfortable, he still lived in it and put off beginning another house.

Washington was now seventeen years old. Through the influence of Sir Thomas Fairfax he was appointed public surveyor; and nothing would do but that he must spend the most of his time at Greenway Court and keep on with the work that he had begun.

For the greater part of three years he worked in the woods and among the mountains, surveying Sir Thomas's lands. And Sir Thomas paid him well—a doubloon ($8.24) for each day, and more than that if the work was very hard.

But there were times when the young surveyor did not go out to work, but stayed at Greenway Court with his good friend, Sir Thomas. The old gentleman had something of a library, and on days when they could neither work nor hunt, George spent the time in reading. He read the

Spectator and a history of England, and possibly some other works.

And so it came about that the three years which young Washington spent in surveying were of much profit to him.

The work in the open air gave him health and strength. He gained courage and self-reliance. He became acquainted with the ways of the backwoodsmen and of the savage Indians. And from Sir Thomas Fairfax he learned a great deal about the history, the laws, and the military affairs of old England.

And in whatever he undertook to do or to learn, he was careful and systematic and thorough. He did nothing by guess; he never left anything half done. And therein, let me say to you, lie the secrets of success in any calling.

VI.—The Ohio Country.

You have already learned how the English people had control of all that part of our country which borders upon the Atlantic Ocean. You

have learned, also, that they had made thirteen great settlements along the coast, while all the vast region west of the mountains remained a wild and unknown land.

Now, because Englishmen had been the first white men to see the line of shore that stretches from Maine to Georgia, they set up a claim to all the land west of that line.

They had no idea how far the land extended. They knew almost nothing about its great rivers, its vasts forests, its lofty mountains, its rich prairies. They cared nothing for the claims of the Indians whose homes were there.

"All the land from ocean to ocean," they said, "belongs to the King of England."

But there were other people who also had something to say about this matter.

The French had explored the Mississippi River. They had sailed on the Great Lakes. Their hunters and trappers were roaming through the western forests. They had made treaties with the Indians; and they had built trading posts, here and there, along the watercourses.

They said, "The English people may keep their strip of land between the mountains and the sea. But these great river valleys and this country around the Lakes are ours, because we have been the first to explore and make use of them."

Now, about the time that George Washington was thinking of becoming a sailor, some of the rich planters in Virginia began to hear wonderful stories about a fertile region west of the Alleghanies, watered by a noble river, and rich in game and fur-bearing animals.

This region was called the Ohio Country, from the name of the river ; and those who took pains to learn the most about it were satisfied that it would, at some time, be of very great importance to the people who should control it.

And so these Virginian planters and certain Englishmen formed a company called the Ohio Company, the object of which was to explore the country, and make money by establishing trading posts and settlements there. And of this company, Lawrence Washington was one of the chief managers.

Lawrence Washington and his brother George had often talked about this enterprise.

"We shall have trouble with the French," said Lawrence. "They have already sent men into the Ohio Country; and they are trying in every way to prove that the land belongs to them."

"It looks as if we should have to drive them out by force," said George.

"Yes, and there will probably be some hard fighting," said Lawrence; "and you, as a young man, must get yourself ready to have a hand in it."

And Lawrence followed this up by persuading the governor of the colony to appoint George as one of the adjutants-general of Virginia.

George was only nineteen years old, but he was now Major Washington, and one of the most promising soldiers in America.

VII.—A Change of Circumstances.

Although George Washington spent so much of his time at Greenway Court, he still called Mount Vernon his home.

Going down home in the autumn, just before he was twenty years old, he found matters in a sad state, and greatly changed.

His brother Lawrence was very ill—indeed, he had been ill a long time. He had tried a trip to England; he had spent a summer at the warm springs; but all to no purpose. He was losing strength every day.

The sick man dreaded the coming of cold weather. If he could only go to the warm West Indies before winter set in, perhaps that would prolong his life. Would George go with him?

No loving brother could refuse a request like that.

The captain of a ship in the West India trade agreed to take them; and so, while it was still pleasant September, the two Washingtons embarked for Barbadoes, which, then as now, belonged to the English.

It was the first time that George had ever been outside of his native land, and it proved to be also the last. He took careful notice of everything that he saw; and, in the little note-book

which he seems to have always had with him, he wrote a brief account of the trip.

He had not been three weeks at Barbadoes before he was taken down with the smallpox; and for a month he was very sick. And so his winter in the West Indies could not have been very pleasant.

In February the two brothers returned home to Mount Vernon. Lawrence's health had not been bettered by the journey. He was now very feeble; but he lingered on until July, when he died.

By his will Lawrence Washington left his fine estate of Mount Vernon, and all the rest of his wealth, to his little daughter. But George was to be the daughter's guardian; and in case of her death, all her vast property was to be his own.

And so, before he was quite twenty-one years old, George Washington was settled at Mount Vernon as the manager of one of the richest estates in Virginia. The death of his little niece not long afterward made him the owner of this estate, and, of course, a very wealthy man.

But within a brief time, events occurred which called him away from his peaceful employments.

VIII.—A Perilous Journey.

Early the very next year news was brought to Virginia that the French were building forts along the Ohio, and making friends with the Indians there. This of course meant that they intended to keep the English out of that country.

The governor of Virginia thought that the time had come to speak out about this matter. He would send a messenger with a letter to these Frenchmen, telling them that all the land belonged to the English, and that no trespassing would be allowed.

The first messenger that he sent became alarmed before he was within a hundred miles of a Frenchman, and went back to say that everything was as good as lost.

It was very plain that a man with some courage must be chosen for such an undertaking.

"I will send Major George Washington," said

the governor. "He is very young, but he is the bravest man in the colony."

Now, promptness was one of those traits of character which made George Washington the great man which he afterward became. And so, on the very day that he received his appointment he set out for the Ohio Country.

He took with him three white hunters, two Indians, and a famous woodsman, whose name was Christopher Gist. A small tent or two, and such few things as they would need on the journey, were strapped on the backs of horses.

They pushed through the woods in a northwestwardly direction, and at last reached a place called Venango, not very far from where Pittsburg now stands. This was the first outpost of the French; and here Washington met some of the French officers, and heard them talk about what they proposed to do.

Then, after a long ride to the north, they came to another fort. The French commandant was here, and he welcomed Washington with a great show of kindness.

Washington gave him the letter which he had brought from the governor of Virginia.

The commandant read it, and two days afterward gave him an answer.

He said that he would forward the letter to the French governor; but as for the Ohio Country, he had been ordered to hold it, and he meant to do so.

Of course Washington could do nothing further. But it was plain to him that the news ought to be carried back to Virginia without delay.

It was now midwinter. As no horse could travel through the trackless woods at this time of year, he must make his way on foot.

So, with only the woodsman, Gist, he shouldered his rifle and knapsack, and bravely started home.

It was a terrible journey. The ground was covered with snow; the rivers were frozen; there was not even a path through the forest. If Gist had not been so fine a woodsman they would hardly have seen Virginia again.

Once an Indian shot at Washington from be-

hind a tree. Once the brave young man fell into a river, among floating ice, and would have been drowned but for Gist.

At last they reached the house of a trader on the Monongahela River. There they were kindly welcomed, and urged to stay until the weather should grow milder.

But Washington would not delay.

Sixteen days after that, he was back in Virginia, telling the governor all about his adventures, and giving his opinion about the best way to deal with the French.

IX.—His First Battle.

It was now very plain that if the English were going to hold the Ohio Country and the vast western region which they claimed as their own, they must fight for it.

The people of Virginia were not very anxious to go to war. But their governor was not willing to be beaten by the French.

He made George Washington a lieutenant-col-

onel of Virginia troops, and set about raising an army to send into the Ohio Country.

Early in the spring Colonel Washington, with a hundred and fifty men, was marching across the country toward the head waters of the Ohio. It was a small army to advance against the thousands of French and Indians who now held that region.

But other officers, with stronger forces, were expected to follow close behind.

Late in May the little army reached the valley of the Monongahela, and began to build a fort at a place called Great Meadows.

By this time the French and Indians were aroused, and hundreds of them were hurrying forward to defend the Ohio Country from the English. One of their scouting parties, coming up the river, was met by Washington with forty men.

The French were not expecting any foe at this place. There were but thirty-two of them; and of these only one escaped. Ten were killed, and the rest were taken prisoners.

This was Washington's first battle, and he was more proud of it than you might suppose. He sent his prisoners to Virginia, and was ready now, with his handful of men, to meet all the French and Indians that might come against him!

And they did come, and in greater numbers than he had expected. He made haste to finish, if possible, the fort that had been begun.

But they were upon him before he was ready. They had four men to his one. They surrounded the fort and shut his little Virginian army in.

What could Colonel Washington do? His soldiers were already half-starved. There was but little food in the fort, and no way to get any more.

The French leader asked if he did not think it would be a wise thing to surrender. Washington hated the very thought of it; but nothing else could be done.

"If you will march your men straight home, and give me a pledge that they and all Virginians will stay out of the Ohio Country for the next

twelve months, you may go," said the Frenchman.

It was done.

Washington, full of disappointment went back to Mount Vernon. But he felt more like fighting than ever before.

He was now twenty-two years old.

X.—The French and Indian War.

In the meanwhile the king of England had heard how the French were building forts along the Ohio and how they were sending their traders to the Great Lakes and to the valley of the Mississippi.

"If we allow them to go on in this way, they will soon take all that vast western country away from us," he said.

And so, the very next winter, he sent over an army under General Edward Braddock to drive the French out of that part of America and at the same time teach their Indian friends a lesson.

It was in February, 1755, when General Braddock and his troops went into camp at Alexandria in Virginia. As Alexandria was only a few miles from Mount Vernon, Washington rode over to see the fine array and become acquainted with the officers.

When General Braddock heard that this was the young man who had ventured so boldly into the Ohio Country, he offered him a place on his staff. This was very pleasing to Washington, for there was nothing more attractive to him than soldiering.

It was several weeks before the army was ready to start: and then it moved so slowly that it did not reach the Monongahela until July.

The soldiers in their fine uniforms made a splendid appearance as they marched in regular order across the country.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the wisest men in America, had told General Braddock that his greatest danger would be from unseen foes hidden among the underbrush and trees.

"They may be dangerous to your backwoods-

men," said Braddock ; " but to the trained soldiers of the king they can give no trouble at all."

But scarcely had the army crossed the Monongahela when it was fired upon by unseen enemies. The woods rang with the cries of savage men.

The soldiers knew not how to return the fire. They were shot down in their tracks like animals in a pen.

" Let the men take to the shelter of the trees !" was Washington's advice.

But Braddock would not listen to it. They must keep in order and fight as they had been trained to fight.

Washington rode hither and thither trying his best to save the day. Two horses were shot under him ; four bullets passed through his coat ; and still he was unhurt. The Indians thought that he bore a charmed life, for none of them could hit him.

It was a dreadful affair—more like a slaughter than a battle. Seven hundred of Braddock's fine soldiers, and more than half of his officers, were

killed or wounded. And all this havoc was made by two hundred Frenchmen and about six hundred Indians hidden among the trees.

At last Braddock gave the order to retreat. It soon became a wild flight rather than a retreat; and yet, had it not been for Washington, it would have been much worse.

The General himself had been fatally wounded. There was no one but Washington who could restore courage to the frightened men, and lead them safely from the place of defeat.

Four days after the battle General Braddock died, and the remnant of the army being now led by a Colonel Dunbar, hurried back to the eastern settlements.

Of all the men who took part in that unfortunate expedition against the French, there was only one who gained any renown therefrom, and that one was Colonel George Washington.

He went back to Mount Vernon, wishing never to be sent to the Ohio Country again.

The people of Virginia were so fearful lest the French and Indians should follow up their

victory and attack the settlements, that they quickly raised a regiment of a thousand men to defend their colony. And so highly did they esteem Colonel Washington that they made him commander of all the forces of the colony, to do with them as he might deem best.

The war with the French for the possession of the Ohio Country and the valley of the Mississippi, had now fairly begun. It would be more than seven years before it came to an end.

But most of the fighting was done at the north —in New York and Canada ; and so Washington and his Virginian soldiers did not distinguish themselves in any very great enterprise

It was for them to keep watch of the western frontier of the colony lest the Indians should cross the mountains and attack the settlements.

Once, near the middle of the war, Washington led a company into the very country where he had once traveled on foot with Christopher Gist.

The French had built a fort at the place where the Ohio River has its beginning, and they had

named it Fort Duquesne. When they heard that Washington was coming they set fire to the fort and fled down the river in boats.

The English built a new fort at the same place, and called it Fort Pitt; and there the city of Pittsburg has since grown up.

And now Washington resigned his commission as commander of the little Virginian army. Perhaps he was tired of the war. Perhaps his great plantation of Mount Vernon needed his care. We cannot tell.

But we know that, a few days later, he was married to Mrs. Martha Custis, a handsome young widow who owned a fine estate not a great way from Williamsburg, the capital of the colony. This was in January, 1759.

At about the same time he was elected a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia; and three months later, he went down to Williamsburg to have a hand in making some of the laws for the colony.

He was now twenty-seven years old. Young as he was, he was one of the richest men in the

colony, and he was known throughout the country as the bravest of American soldiers.

The war was still going on at the north. To most of the Virginians it seemed to be a thing far away.

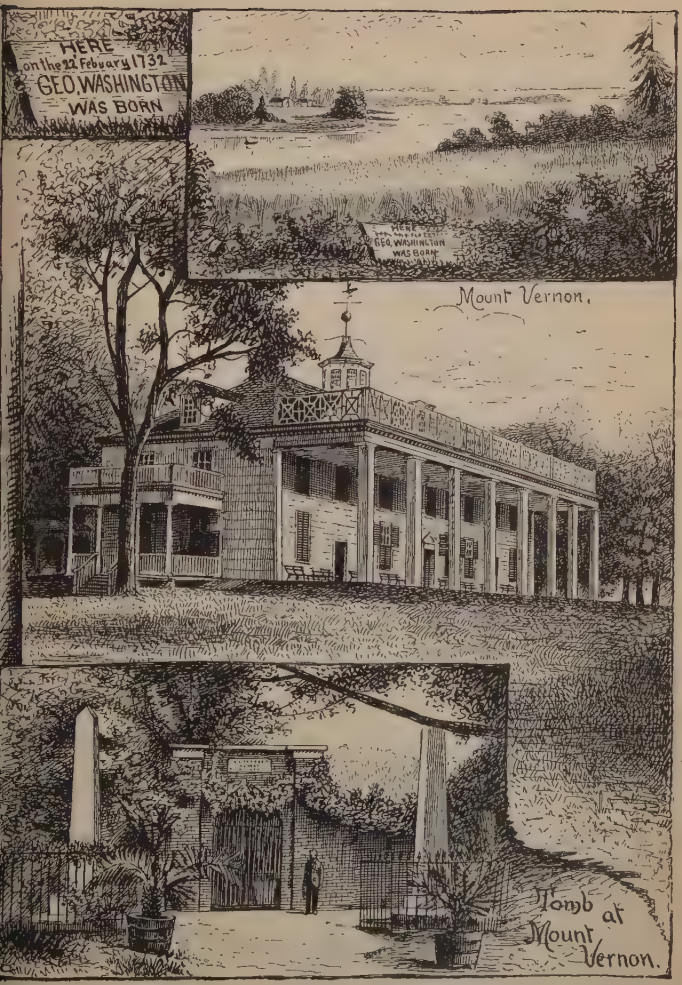
At last, in 1763, a treaty of peace was made. The French had been beaten, and they were obliged to give up everything to the English. They lost not only the Ohio Country and all the great West, but Canada also.

XI.—The Mutterings of the Storm.

And now for several years Washington lived the life of a country gentleman. He had enough to do, taking care of his plantations, hunting foxes with his sport-loving neighbors, and sitting for a part of each year in the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg.

He was a tall man—more than six feet in height. He had a commanding presence and a noble air which plainly said: "This is no common man."

He was shrewd in business. He was the best


HERE
on the 22 Febuary 1732
GEO. WASHINGTON
WAS BORN
HERE
GEO. WASHINGTON
WAS BORN
Mount Vernon.
Tomb at
Mount
Vernon.

horseman and the best walker in Virginia. An no man knew more about farming than he.

And so the years passed pleasantly enough a Mount Vernon, and there were few who dreame of the great events and changes that were soo to take place.

King George the Third of England, who wa the ruler of the thirteen colonies, had done man unwise things.

He had made laws forbidding the colonist from trading with other countries than his own

He would not let them build factories to weav their wool and flax into cloth.

He wanted to force them to buy all the goods in England, and to send their corn an tobacco and cotton there to pay for them.

And now after the long war with France h wanted to make the colonists pay heavy taxes i order to meet the expenses of that war.

They must not drink a cup of tea without firs paying tax on it; they must not sign a deed or note without first buying stamped paper on whic to write it.

In every colony there was great excitement on ccount of the tea tax and the stamp act, as it as called.

In the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg, a oung man, whose name was Patrick Henry, made famous speech in which he declared that the king ad no right to tax them without their consent.

George Washington heard that speech, and ave it his approval.

Not long afterward, news came that in Boston ship-load of tea had been thrown into the sea y the colonists. Rather than pay the tax upon , they would drink no tea.

Then, a little later, still other news came. The ing had closed the port of Boston, and would ot allow any ships to come in or go out.

More than this, he had sent over a body of oldiers, and had quartered them in Boston in rder to keep the people in subjection.

The whole country was aroused now. What id this mean? Did the king intend to take way from the colonists all the liberties that are o dear to men?

The colonies must unite and agree upon doing something to protect themselves and preserve their freedom. In order to do this each colony was asked to send delegates to Philadelphia to talk over the matter and see what would be the best thing to do.

George Washington was one of the delegates from Virginia.

Before starting he made a great speech in the House of Burgesses. "If necessary, I will raise a thousand men," he said, "subsist them at my own expense, and march them to the relief of Boston."

But the time for marching to Boston had not quite come.

The delegates from the different colonies met in Carpenter's Hall, in Philadelphia, on the 5th of September, 1774. Their meeting has since been known as the First Continental Congress of America.

For fifty-one days those wise, thoughtful men discussed the great question that had brought them together. What could the colonists do to

scape the oppressive laws that the King of England was trying to force upon them?

Many powerful speeches were made, but George Washington sat silent. He was a doer rather than a talker.

At last the Congress decided to send an address to the king to remind him of the rights of the colonists, and humbly beg that he would not enforce his unjust laws.

And then, when all had been done that could be done, Washington went back to his home at Mount Vernon, to his family and his friends, his big plantations, his fox-hunting, and his pleasant life as a country gentleman.

But he knew as well as any man that more serious work was near at hand.

XII.—The Beginning of the War.

All that winter the people of the colonies were anxious and fearful. Would the king pay any heed to their petition? Or would he force them to obey his unjust laws?

Then, in the spring, news came from Bosto that matters were growing worse and worse The soldiers who were quartered in that city wer daily becoming more insolent and overbearing.

"These people ought to have their tow knocked about their ears and destroyed," sai one of the king's officers.

On the 19th of April a company of the king soldiers started to Concord, a few miles fro Boston, to seize some powder which had bee stored there. Some of the colonists met ther at Lexington, and there was a battle.

This was the first battle in that long war com monly called the Revolution.

Washington was now on his way to the Nort again. The Second Continental Congress was t meet in Philadelphia in May, and he was agai a delegate from Virginia.

In the first days of the Congress no man wa busier than he. No man seemed to understan the situation of things better than he. No ma was listened to with greater respect; and yet h said but little.

Every day, he came into the hall wearing the lue and buff uniform which belonged to him as Virginia colonel. It was as much as to say: The time for fighting has come, and I am eady."

The Congress thought it best to send another umble petition to the king, asking him not to eprive the people of their just rights.

In the meantime brave men were flocking owards Boston to help the people defend themelves from the violence of the king's soldiers. he war had begun, and no mistake.

The men of Congress saw now the necessity f providing for this war. They asked, "Who hall be the commander-in-chief of our colonial rmy?"

It was hardly worth while to ask such a quesion; for there could be but one answer. Who, ut George Washington?

No other person in America knew so much bout war as he. No other person was so well tted to command.

On the 15th of June, on motion of John Adams

of Massachusetts, he was appointed to that re
sponsible place. On the next day he made
modest but noble little speech before Congress.

He told the members of that body that h
would serve his country willingly and as well a
he could—but not for money. They might pro
vide for his necessary expenses, but he woul
never take any pay for his services.

And so, leaving all his own interests out o
sight, he undertook at once the great work tha
had been entrusted to him. He undertook i
not for profit nor for honor, but because of a fee
ing of duty to his fellow-men. For eight wear
years he forgot himself in the service of hi
country.

Two weeks after his appointment Genera
Washington rode into Cambridge, near Boston
and took formal command of his army.

It was but a small force, poorly clothed, poorl
armed; but every man had the love of countr
in his heart. It was the first American army.

But so well did Washington manage matter
that soon his raw troops were in good shape fo

service. And so hard did he press the king's soldiers in Boston that, before another summer, they were glad to take ship and sail away from the town which they had so long infested and annoyed.

XIII.—Independence.

On the fourth day of the following July there was a great stir in the town of Philadelphia. Congress was sitting in the Hall of the State House. The streets were full of people; everybody seemed anxious; everybody was in suspense.

Men were crowding around the State House and listening.

"Who is speaking now?" asked one.

"John Adams," was the answer.

"And who is speaking now?"

"Doctor Franklin."

"Good! Let them follow his advice, for he knows what is best."

Then there was a lull outside, for everybody wanted to hear what the great Dr. Franklin had to say.

After a while the same question was asked again: "Who is speaking now?"

And the answer was: "Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. It was he and Franklin who wrote it."

"Wrote what?"

"Why, the Declaration of Independence, of course."

A little later some one said: "They will be ready to sign it soon."

"But will they dare to sign it?"

"Dare? They dare not do otherwise."

Inside the hall grave men were discussing the acts of the King of England.

"He has cut off our trade with all parts of the world," said one.

"He has forced us to pay taxes without our consent," said another.

"He has sent his soldiers among us to burn our towns and kill our people," said a third.

"He has tried to make the Indians our enemies," said a fourth.

"He is a tyrant and unfit to be the ruler of a free people," agreed they all.

And then everybody was silent while one read: "We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, solemnly publish and declare that the united colonies are, and of right ought to be, *free and independent states*."

Soon afterward the bell in the high tower above the hall began to ring.

"It is done!" cried the people. "They have signed the Declaration of Independence."

"Yes, every colony has voted for it," said those nearest the door. "The King of England shall no longer rule over us."

And that was the way in which the United States came into being. The thirteen colonies were now thirteen states.

Up to this time Washington and his army had been fighting for the rights of the people as colonists. They had been fighting in order to oblige the king to do away with the unjust laws which he had made. But now they were to fight for freedom and for the independence of the United States.

By and by you will read in your histories how

wisely and bravely Washington conducted the war. You will learn how he held out against the king's soldiers on Long Island and at White Plains; how he crossed the Delaware amid floating ice and drove the English from Trenton; how he wintered at Morristown; how he suffered at Valley Forge; how he fought at Germantown and Monmouth and Yorktown.

There were six years of fighting, of marching here and there, of directing and planning, of struggling in the face of every discouragement.

Eight years passed, and then peace came, for independence had been won, and this our country was made forever free.

On the 2d of November, 1783, Washington bade farewell to his army. On the 23d of December he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief.

There were some who suggested that Washington should make himself king of this country; and indeed this he might have done, so great was the people's love and gratitude.

But the great man spurned such suggestions.

He said, "If you have any regard for your country or respect for me, banish those thoughts and never again speak of them."

XIV.- The First President.

Washington was now fifty-two years old.

The country was still in an unsettled condition. True, it was free from English control. But there was no strong government to hold the states together.

Each state was a little country of itself, making its own laws, and having its own selfish aims without much regard for its sister states. People did not think of the United States as one great undivided nation.

And so matters were in bad enough shape, and they grew worse and worse as the months went by.

Wise men saw that unless something should be done to bring about a closer union of the states, they would soon be in no better condition than when ruled by the English king.

And so a great convention was held in Philadelphia to determine what could be done to save the country from ruin. George Washington was chosen to preside over this convention; and no man's words had greater weight than his.

He said, "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God."

That convention did a great and wonderful work; for it framed the Constitution by which our country has ever since been governed.

And soon afterwards, in accordance with that Constitution, the people of the country were called upon to elect a President. Who should it be?

Who could it be but Washington?

When the electoral votes were counted, every vote was for George Washington of Virginia.

And so, on the 16th of April, 1789, the great man again bade adieu to Mount Vernon and to private life, and set out for New York. For the city of Washington had not yet been built, and New York was the first capital of our country.

There were no railroads at that time, and so he journey was made in a coach. All along the oad the people gathered to see their hero-pres-dent and show him their love.

On the 30th of April he was inaugurated at ne old Federal Hall in New York.

"Long live George Washington, President of he United States!" shouted the people. Then he cannon roared, the bells rang, and the new overnment of the United States—the govern-nent which we have to-day—began its existence.

Washington was fifty-seven years old at the me of his inauguration.

Perhaps no man was ever called to the doing f more difficult things. The entire government nust be built up from the beginning, and all its nachinery put into order.

But so well did he meet the expectations of ne people, that when his first term was near its lose he was again elected President, receiving very electoral vote.

In your histories you will learn of the many ifficult tasks which he performed during those

years of the nation's infancy. There were new troubles with England, troubles with the Indians, jealousies and disagreements among the law-makers of the country. But amidst all these trials Washington stood steadfast, wise, cool—conscious that he was right, and strong enough to prevail.

Before the end of his second term, people began to talk about electing him for the third time. They could not think of any other man holding the highest office in the country. They feared that no other man could be safely entrusted with the great responsibilities which he had borne so nobly.

But Washington declared that he would not accept office again. The government was now on a firm footing. There were others who could manage its affairs wisely and well.

And so, in September, 1796, he published his Farewell Address. It was full of wise and wholesome advice.

"Beware of attacks upon the Constitution. Beware of those who think more of their party

nan of their country. Promote education. Observe justice. Treat with good faith all nations. Adhere to the right. Be united—be united. Love your country." These were some of the things that he said.

John Adams, who had been Vice-President eight years, was chosen to be the new President, and Washington again retired to Mount Vernon.

XV.—"First in the Hearts of his Countrymen."

In the enjoyment of his home life, Washington did not forget his country. It would, indeed, have been hard for him not to keep informed about public affairs; for men were all the time coming to him to ask for help and advice regarding this measure or that.

The greatest men of the nation felt that he must know what was wisest and best for the country's welfare.

Soon after his retirement an unexpected trouble arose. There was another war between Eng-

land and France. The French were very anxiou that the United States should join in the quarre

When they could not bring this about by pe suasion, they tried abuse. They insulted the o ficers of our government; they threatened war.

The whole country was aroused. Congress be gan to take steps for the raising of an army an the building of a navy. But who should lead th army?

All eyes were again turned toward Washing ton. He had saved the country once; he coul save it again. The President asked him if h would again be the commander-in-chief.

He answered that he would do so, on condi tion that he might choose his assistants. Bu unless the French should actually invade thi country, he must not be expected to go into th field.

And so, at the last, General Washington i again the commander-in-chief of the America army. But there is to be no fighting this time The French see that the people of the Unite States cannot be frightened; they see that th

overnment cannot be driven; they leave off
eir abuse, and are ready to make friends.

Washington's work is done now. On the 12th
December, 1799, he mounts his horse and rides
ıt over his farms. The weather is cold; the
ow is falling; but he stays out for two or
ree hours.

The next morning he has a sore throat; he has
ken cold. The snow is still falling, but he will
out again. At night he is very hoarse; he is
lvised to take medicine.

"Oh, no," he answers, "you know I never
ke anything for a cold."

But in the night he grows much worse; early
e next morning the doctor is brought. It is
o late. He grows rapidly worse. He knows
at the end is near.

"It is well," he says; and these are his last
ords.

Washington died on the 14th of December,
99. He had lived nearly sixty-eight years.

His sudden death was a shock to the entire
untry. Every one felt as though he had lost a

personal friend. The mourning for him was general and sincere.

In the Congress of the United States his funeral oration was pronounced by his friend Henry Lee, who said:

"First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate, uniform, dignified, and commanding, his example was edifying to all around him, as were the effects of that example lasting.

"Such was the man America has lost! Such was the man for whom our country mourns!"

THE STORY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

TO THE YOUNG READER

I am about to tell you the story of a very great an noble man. It is the story of one whom all the wor honors—of one whose name will forever be remembere with admiration. Benjamin Franklin was not born greatness. He had none of the advantages which eve the poorest boys may now enjoy. But he achieved grea ness by always making the best use of such opportuniti as came in his way. He was not afraid of work. He d not give up to discouragements. He did not overestima his own abilities. He was earnest and faithful in litt things; and that, after all, is the surest way of attainin to great things. There is no man to whom we American owe a greater debt of gratitude. Without his aid th American colonies would hardly have won independenc It was said of him that he knew how to subdue bot thunder and tyranny; and a famous orator who kne him well, described him as "the genius that gave freedo to America and shed torrents of light upon Europe But, at the close of a very long life, the thing which gav him the greatest satisfaction was the fact that he ha made no man his enemy; there was no human being wh could justly say, "Ben Franklin has wronged me."

THE STORY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

I.—The Whistle.

Nearly two hundred years ago, there lived in oston a little boy whose name was Benjamin ranklin.

On the day that he was seven years old, his nother gave him a few pennies.

He looked at the bright, yellow pieces and aid, "What shall I do with these coppers, nother?"

It was the first money that he had ever had.

"You may buy something with them, if you ould like," said his mother.

"And will you give me more when they are one?" he asked.

His mother shook her head and said: "No, enjamin. I cannot give you any more. So you ust be careful not to spend them foolishly."

The little fellow ran out into the street. He eard the pennies jingle in his pocket as he ran. e felt as though he was very rich.

Boston was at that time only a small town and there were not many stores. As Benjamin ran down toward the busy part of the street, he wondered what he should buy.

Should he buy candy or toys? It had been a long time since he had tasted candy. As for toys, he hardly knew what they were.

If he had been the only child in the family things might have been different. But there were fourteen boys and girls older than he, and two little sisters that were younger.

It was as much as his father could do to earn food and clothing for so many. There was no money to spend for toys.

Before Benjamin had gone very far he met a boy blowing a whistle.

"That is just the thing that I want," he said. Then he hurried on to the store where all kinds of things were kept for sale.

"Have you any good whistles?" he asked.

He was out of breath from running, but he tried hard to speak like a man.

"Yes, plenty of them," said the man.

"Well, I want one, and I'll give you all the oney I have for it," said the little fellow. He rgot to ask the price.

"How much money have you?" asked the an.

Benjamin took the coppers from his pocket. he man counted them and said, "All right, my oy. It's a bargain."

Then he put the pennies into his money drawer, nd gave one of the whistles to the boy.

Benjamin Franklin was a proud and happy oy. He ran home as fast as he could, blowing is whistle as he ran.

His mother met him at the door and said, Well, my child, what did you do with your ennies?"

"I bought a whistle!" he cried. "Just hear ne blow it!"

"How much did you pay for it?"

"All the money I had."

One of his brothers was standing by and asked o see the whistle. "Well, well!" he said, "did ou spend all of your money for this thing?"

"Every penny," said Benjamin.

"Did you ask the price?"

"No. But I offered them to the man, and h said it was all right."

His brother laughed and said, "You are a ver foolish fellow. You paid four times as much a it is worth."

"Yes," said his mother, "I think it is rathe a dear whistle. You had enough money to bu a whistle and some candy, too."

The little boy saw what a mistake he ha made. The whistle did not please him any more He threw it upon the floor, and began to cry But his mother took him upon her lap and said

"Never mind, my child. We must all live an learn; and I think that my little boy will b careful, after this, not to pay too dear for hi whistles."

II.—SCHOOLDAYS.

When Benjamin Franklin was a boy there were no great public schools in Boston as there are now. But he learned to read almost as soon

; he could talk, and he was always fond of ooks.

His nine brothers were older than he, and very one had learned a trade. They did not are so much for books.

"Benjamin shall be the scholar of our family," id his mother.

"Yes, we will educate him for a minister," said s father. For at that time all the most learned en were ministers.

And so, when he was eight years old, Benjain Franklin was sent to a grammar school, here boys were prepared for college. He was very apt scholar, and in a few months was proioted to a higher class.

But the lad was not allowed to stay long in e grammar school. His father was a poor an. It would cost a great deal of money to ve Benjamin a college education. The times ere very hard. The idea of educating the boy r the ministry had to be given up.

In less than a year he was taken from e grammar school, and sent to another

school where arithmetic and writing wer taught.

He learned to write very well, indeed; but h did not care so much for arithmetic, and so faile to do what was expected of him.

When he was ten years old he had to leav school altogether. His father needed his help and though Benjamin was but a small boy, ther were many things that he could do.

He never attended school again. But he kep on studying and reading; and we shall fin that he afterwards became the most learned ma in America.

Benjamin's father was a soap-boiler and candl maker. And so when the boy was taken fron school, what kind of work do you think he ha to do?

He was kept busy cutting wicks for the can dles, pouring the melted tallow into the candle moulds, and selling soap to his father's customers

Do you suppose that he liked this business?

He did not like it at all. And when he saw the ships sailing in and out of Boston harbor, he

nged to be a sailor and go to strange, far-away
nds, where candles and soap were unknown.
But his father would not listen to any of his
lk about going to sea.

III.—The Boys and the Wharf.

Busy as Benjamin was in his father's shop, he
ill had time to play a good deal.

He was liked by all the boys of the neighbor-
ood, and they looked up to him as their leader.
all their games he was their captain; and noth-
g was undertaken without asking his advice.

Not far from the home of the Franklins there
as a millpond, where the boys often went to
vim. When the tide was high they liked to
and at a certain spot on the shore of the pond
id fish for minnows.

But the ground was marshy and wet, and the
oys' feet sank deep in the mud.

"Let us build a wharf along the water's edge,"
id Benjamin. "Then we can stand and fish
ith some comfort."

"Agreed!" said the boys. "But what is th wharf to be made of?"

Benjamin pointed to a heap of stones that la not far away. They had been hauled there onl a few days before, and were to be used in build ing a new house near the millpond.

The boys needed only a hint. Soon they wer as busy as ants, dragging the stones to th water's edge.

Before it was fully dark that evening, they ha built a nice stone wharf on which they coul stand and fish without danger of sinking in th mud.

The next morning the workmen came to begi the building of the house. They were surprise to find all the stones gone from the place wher they had been thrown. But the tracks of th boys in the mud told the story.

It was easy enough to find out who had don the mischief.

When the boys' fathers were told of the trou ble which they had caused, you may imagin what they did.

Young Benjamin Franklin tried hard to ex-
ain that a wharf on the edge of the millpond
is a public necessity.

His father would not listen to him. He said,
My son, nothing can ever be truly useful which
not at the same time truly honest."

And Benjamin never forgot this lesson.

IV.—Choosing a Trade.

As I have already said, young Benjamin did
t like the work which he had to do in his
her's shop.

His father was not very fond of the trade him-
f, and so he could not blame the boy. One
y he said:

'Benjamin, since you have made up your
nd not to be a candle-maker, what trade do
u think you would like to learn?"

'You know I would like to be a sailor," said
boy.

'But you shall not be a sailor," said his father.
intend that you shall learn some useful busi-

ness on land; and, of course, you will succee best in that kind of business which is most plea ant to you."

The next day he took the boy to walk wi him among the shops of Boston. They saw a kinds of workmen busy at their various trades.

Benjamin was delighted. Long afterward when he had become a very great man, he sai "It has ever since been a pleasure to me to s good workmen handle their tools."

He gave up the thought of going to sea, ar said that he would learn any trade that his fath would choose for him.

His father thought that the cutler's trade w a good one. His cousin, Samuel Franklin, ha just set up a cutler's shop in Boston, and agreed to take Benjamin a few days on trial.

Benjamin was pleased with the idea of lear ing how to make knives and scissors and razo and all other kinds of cutting tools. But his cou in wanted so much money for teaching him t trade that his father could not afford it; and the lad was taken back to the candle-maker's sho

121 Molly [illegible] District [illegible]

Soon after this, Benjamin's brother, James ranklin, set up a printing press in Boston. He tended to print and publish books and a news- aper.

"Benjamin loves books," said his father. "He all learn to be a printer."

And so, when he was twelve years old, he was ound to his brother to learn the printer's trade. e was to stay with him until he was twenty- ne. He was to have his board and clothing and o other wages, except during the last year. I ppose that during the last year he was to be id the same as any other workman.

V.—How Franklin Educated Himself.

When Benjamin Franklin was a boy there ere no books for children. Yet he spent most his spare time in reading.

His father's books were not easy to under- and. People nowadays would think them very ll and heavy.

But before he was twelve years old, Benjamin

Birthplace of Franklin
Boston U.S.

Press at which
Franklin worked

ad read the most of them. He read everything
iat he could get.

After he went to work for his brother he
ound it easier to obtain good books. Often he
ould borrow a book in the evening, and then
t up nearly all night reading it so as to return
in the morning.

When the owners of books found that he al-
ays returned them soon and clean, they were
ery willing to lend him whatever he wished.

He was about fourteen years of age when he
egan to study how to write clearly and correct-
. He afterwards told how he did this. He said:
"About this time I met with an odd volume
the *Spectator*. I had never before seen any
them.

"I bought it, read it over and over, and was
uch delighted with it.

"I thought the writing excellent, and wished
possible to imitate it.

"With that view, I took some of the papers,
id making short hints of the sentiments in each
ntence, laid them by a few days, and then,

without looking at the book, tried to complet the papers again, by expressing each hinted sen timent at length and as fully as it had been ex pressed before, in any suitable words that shoul occur to me.

"Then I compared my *Spectator* with the orig inal, discovered some of my faults and correcte them.

"But I found that I wanted a stock of word or a readiness in recollecting and using them.

"Therefore, I took some of the tales in th *Spectator* and turned them into verse; and, afte a time, when I had pretty well forgotten th prose, turned them back again."

About this time his brother began to publish newspaper.

It was the fourth newspaper published i America, and was called the *New Englan Courant*.

People said that it was a foolish undertaking They said that one newspaper was enough fo this country, and that there would be but litt demand for more.

In those days editors did not dare to write eely about public affairs. It was dangerous to iticise men who were in power.

James Franklin published something in the *ew England Courant* about the law ers of assachusetts. It made the la , y ers very ngry. They caused James Franklin to be shut o in prison for a month, and they ordered that e should no longer print the newspaper called e *New England Courant*.

But, in spite of this order, the newspaper was inted every week as before. It was printed, owever, in the name of Benjamin Franklin. or several years it bore his name as editor and ublisher.

VI.—Farewell to Boston.

Benjamin Franklin did not have a very happy e with his brother James.

His brother was a hard master, and was al- ays finding fault with his workmen. Some- mes he would beat young Benjamin and abuse m without cause.

When Benjamin was nearly seventeen yea
old he made up his mind that he would not e
dure this treatment any longer.

He told his brother that he would leave hi
and find work with some one else.

When his brother learned that he really mea
to do this, he went round to all the other printe
in Boston and persuaded them not to give Be
jamin any work.

The father took James's part, and scolde
Benjamin for being so saucy and so hard to pleas
But Benjamin would not go back to James
printing house.

He made up his mind that since he could n
find work in Boston he would run away from h
home. He would go to New York and look f
work there.

He sold his books to raise a little mone
Then, without saying good-bye to his father
mother or any of his brothers or sisters,
went on board a ship that was just ready to s
from the harbor.

It is not likely that he was very happy while

g this. Long afterwards he said · "I reckon
is as one of the first *errata* of my life."

What did he mean by *errata?*

Errata are mistakes—mistakes that cannot
sily be corrected.

Three days after leaving Boston, young Frank-
n found himself in New York. It was then
ctober, in the year 1723.

The lad had but very little money in his pocket.
here was no one in New York that he knew. He
as three hundred miles from home and friends.

As soon as he landed he went about the streets
oking for work.

New York was only a little town then, and
ere was not a newspaper in it. There were
ıt a few printing houses there, and these had
ot much work to do. The boy from Boston
lled at every place, but he found that nobody
anted to employ any more help.

At one of the little printing houses Franklin
as told that perhaps he could find work in Phil-
lelphia, which was at that time a much more
nportant place than New York.

Philadelphia was one hundred miles farther from home. One hundred miles was a long distance in those days.

But Franklin made up his mind to go there without delay. It would be easier to do this than to give up and try to return to Boston.

VII.—The First Day in Philadelphia.

There are two ways of going from New York to Philadelphia.

One way is by the sea. The other is by land across the state of New Jersey.

As Franklin had but little money, he took the shorter route by land; but he sent his little chest containing his Sunday clothes, round by sea, in a boat.

He walked all the way from Perth Amboy, on the eastern shore of New Jersey, to Burlington on the Delaware river.

Nowadays you may travel that distance in an hour, for it is only about fifty miles.

But there were no railroads at that time; and

ranklin was nearly three days trudging along nely wagon-tracks, in the midst of a pouring in.

At Burlington he was lucky enough to be ken on board a small boat that was going down e river.

Burlington is only twenty miles above Phila- lphia. But the boat moved very slowly, and there was no wind, the men took turns at row- g.

Night came on, and they were afraid that they ight pass by Philadelphia in the darkness. So ey landed, and camped on shore till morning.

Early the next day they reached Philadelphia, d Benjamin Franklin stepped on shore at the ot of Market street, where the Camden ferry- ats now land.

No one who saw him could have guessed that would one day be the greatest man in the city. He was a sorry-looking fellow.

He was dressed in his working clothes, and as very dirty from being so long on the road d in the little boat.

His pockets were stuffed out with shirts an stockings, and all the money that he had was n more than a dollar.

He was hungry and tired. He had not a si gle friend. He did not know of any place whe he could look for lodging.

It was Sunday morning.

He went a little way up the street, and looke around him.

A boy was coming down, carrying a basket bread.

"My young friend," said Franklin, "where di you get that bread?"

"At the baker's," said the boy.

"And where is the baker's?"

The boy showed him the little baker shop ju around the corner.

Young Franklin was so hungry that he coul hardly wait. He hurried into the shop and aske for three-penny worth of bread.

The baker gave him three great, puffy rolls.

Franklin had not expected to get so much, b he took the rolls and walked out.

His pockets were already full, and so, while he
e one roll, he held the others under his arms.
As he went up Market street, eating his roll, a
ung girl stood in a doorway laughing at him.
e was, indeed, a very funny-looking fellow.
The girl's name was Deborah Read. A few
ars after that, she became the wife of Benjamin
anklin
Hungry as he was, Franklin found that he
uld eat but one of the rolls, and so he gave the
her two to a poor woman who had come down
e river in the same boat with him.
As he was strolling along the street he came
a Quaker meeting-house.
The door was open, and many people were sit-
g quietly inside. The seats looked inviting,
d so Franklin walked in and sat down.
The day was warm ; the people in the house
ere very still ; Franklin was tired. In a few
nutes he was sound asleep
And so it was in a Quaker meeting-house that
njamin Franklin found the first shelter and
t in Philadelphia.

Later in the day, as Franklin was strollin toward the river, he met a young man whos honest face was very pleasing to him.

"My friend," he said, "can you tell me of an house where they lodge strangers?"

"Yes," said the young man, "there is a hous on this very street; but it is not a place I ca recommend. If thee will come with me I wi show thee a better one."

Franklin walked with him to a house on Wate street, and there he found lodging for the nigh

And so ended his first day in Philadelphia.

VIII.—Governor William Keith.

Franklin soon obtained work in a printin house owned by a man named Keimer.

He found a boarding place in the house of M Read, the father of the girl who had laughed a him with his three rolls.

He was only seventeen years old, and he soo became acquainted with several young people i the town who loved books.

In a little while he began to lay up money, d he tried to forget his old home in Boston as uch as he could.

One day a letter came to Philadelphia for Ben- min Franklin.

It was from Captain Robert Holmes, a brother- law of Franklin's.

Captain Holmes was the master of a trading op that sailed between Boston and Delaware y. While he was loading his vessel at New- stle, forty miles below Philadelphia, he had ppened to hear about the young man Franklin o had lately come from Boston.

He sat down at once and wrote a letter to the ung man. He told him how his parents and ends were grieving for him in Boston. He gged him to go back home, and said that ev- thing would be made right if he would do so.

When Franklin read this letter he felt very l to think of the pain and distress which he d caused.

But he did not want to return to Boston. He that he had been badly treated by his brother,

and, therefore, that he was not the only one to be blamed. He believed that he could do much better in Philadelphia than anywhere else.

So he sat down and wrote an answer to Captain Holmes. He wrote it with great care, and sent it off to Newcastle by the first boat that was going that way.

Now it so happened that Sir William Keith, the governor of the province, was at Newcastle at that very time. He was with Captain Holmes when the letter came to hand.

When Captain Holmes had read the letter he was so pleased with it that he showed it to the governor.

Governor Keith read it and was surprised when he learned that its writer was a lad only seventeen years old.

"He is a young man of great promise," he said; "and he must be encouraged. The printers in Philadelphia know nothing about the business. If young Franklin will stay there and set up a press, I will do a great deal for him."

One day not long after that, when Frankli

as at work in Keimer's printing-office, the gov-
nor came to see him. Franklin was very much
rprised.

The governor offered to set him up in a busi-
ss of his own. He promised that he should
ve all the public printing in the province.

"But you will have to go to England to buy
ur types and whatever else you may need."

Franklin agreed to do this. But he must first
urn to Boston and get his father's consent and
istance.

The governor gave him a letter to carry to his
her. In a few weeks he was on his way home.

You may believe that Benjamin's father and
ther were glad to see him. He had been gone
en months, and in all that time they had not
rd a word from him.

His brothers and sisters were glad to see
, too—all but the printer, James, who treated
very unkindly.

His father read the governor's letter, and then
ok his head.

"What kind of a man is this Governor Keith?"

he asked. "He must have but little judgme to think of setting up a mere boy in business this kind."

After that he wrote a letter of thanks to t governor. He said that he was grateful for t kindness he had shown to his son, and for offer to help him. But he thought that Benjam was still too young to be trusted with so grea business, and therefore he would not consent his undertaking it. As for helping him, that could not do; for he had but little more mon than was needed to carry on his own affairs.

IX.—The Return to Philadelphia.

Benjamin Franklin felt much disappoint when his father refused to help send him to E land. But he was not discouraged.

In a few weeks he was ready to return to P adelphia. This time he did not have to r away from home.

His father blessed him, and his mother ga him many small gifts as tokens of her love.

"Be diligent," said his father, "attend well to
our business, and save your money carefully,
nd, perhaps, by the time you are twenty-one
ears old, you will be able to set up for yourself
ithout the governor's help."

All the family, except James the printer, bade
m a kind good-bye, as he went on board the
tle ship that was to take him as far as New
ork.

There was another surprise for him when he
ached New York.

The governor of New York had heard that
ere was a young man from Boston on board
e ship, and that he had a great many books.

There were no large libraries in New York at
at time. There were no bookstores, and but
w people who cared for books.

So the governor sent for Franklin to come and
e him. He showed him his own library, and
ey had a long talk about books and authors.

This was the second governor that had taken
otice of Benjamin. For a poor boy, like him,
was a great honor, and very pleasing.

When he arrived in Philadelphia he gave Governor Keith the letter which his father ha written.

The governor was not very well pleased. H said:

"Your father is too careful. There is a gre difference in persons. Young men can som times be trusted with great undertakings well as if they were older."

He then said that he would set Franklin up business without his father's help.

"Give me a list of everything needed in a firs class printing-office. I will see that you are pro erly fitted out."

Franklin was delighted. He thought th Governor Keith was one of the best men in t world.

In a few days he laid before the governor list of the things needed in a little printing-offic

The cost of the outfit would be about five hu dred dollars.

The governor was pleased with the list. The were no type-foundries in America at that tim

here was no place where printing-presses were ade. Everything had to be bought in Eng- nd.

The governor said, "Don't you think it would better if you could go to England and choose e types for yourself, and see that everything just as you would like to have it?"

"Yes, sir," said Franklin, "I think that would a great advantage."

"Well, then," said the governor, "get yourself ady to go on the next regular ship to London. shall be at my expense."

At that time there was only one ship that ade regular trips from Philadelphia to Eng- nd, and it sailed but once each year.

The name of this ship was the *Annis*. It ould not be ready to sail again for several onths.

And so young Franklin, while he was getting ady for the voyage, kept on working in Mr. imer's little printing-office.

He laid up money enough to pay for his pas- ge. He did not want to be dependent upon

Governor Keith for everything; and it was w
that he did not.

X.—The First Visit to England.

At last the *Annis* was ready to sail.

Governor Keith had promised to give to your
Franklin letters of introduction to some of h
friends in England.

He had also promised to give him money
buy his presses and type.

But when Franklin called at the governo
house to bid him good-bye, and to get the letter
the governor was too busy to see him. He sa
that he would send the letters and the money
him on shipboard.

The ship sailed.

But no letters, nor any word from Govern
Keith, had been sent to Franklin.

When he at last arrived in London he foun
himself without money and without friends.

Governor Keith had given him nothing b
promises. He would never give him anythi

ore. He was a man whose word was not to be
pended upon.

Franklin was then just eighteen years old.
e must now depend wholly upon himself. He
ust make his own way in the world, without
l from anyone.

He went out at once to look for work. He
und employment in a printing-office, and there
stayed for nearly a year.

Franklin made many acquaintances with liter-
y people while he was in London.

He proved himself to be a young man of tal-
t and ingenuity. He was never idle.

His companions in the printing-office were
er-drinkers and sots. He often told them how
olish they were to spend their money and ruin
emselves for drink.

He drank nothing but water. He was strong
d active, He could carry more, and do more
ork, than any of them.

He persuaded many of them to leave off drink-
g, and to lead better lives.

Franklin was also a fine swimmer. There was

no one in London who could swim as well. H
wrote two essays on swimming, and made son
plans for opening a swimming school.

When he had been in London about a year, h
met a Mr. Denham, a merchant of Philadelphi
and a strong friendship sprang up betwe
them.

Mr. Denham at last persuaded Franklin to r
turn to Philadelphia, and be a clerk in his dr
goods store.

And so, on the 23rd of the next July, he s
sail for home. The ship was nearly three month
in making the voyage, and it was not until Oct
ber that he again set foot in Philadelphia.

XI.—A Leading Man in Philadelphia.

When Franklin was twenty-four years old h
was married to Miss Deborah Read, the youn
lady who had laughed at him when he was wal
ing the street with his three rolls.

They lived together very happily for a grea
many years.

Some time before this marriage, Franklin's end and employer, Mr. Denham, had died. The dry-goods store, of which he was the ner, had been sold, and Franklin's occupation a salesman, or clerk, was gone. But the young an had shown himself to be a person of great dustry and ability. He had the confidence of erybody that knew him.

A friend of his, who had money, offered to ke him as a partner in the newspaper business. nd so he again became a printer, and the editor a paper called the *Pennsylvania Gazette.*

It was not long until Franklin was recognized one of the leading men in Philadelphia. His me was known, not only in Pennsylvania, but all the colonies.

He was all the time thinking of plans for mak- g the people about him wiser and better and ppier.

He established a subscription and circulating rary, the first in America. This library was e beginning of the present Philadelphia Public brary.

He wrote papers on education. He founde the University of Pennsylvania. He organize the American Philosophical Society.

He established the first fire company in Phil delphia, which was also the first in America.

He invented a copper-plate press, and printe the first paper money of New Jersey.

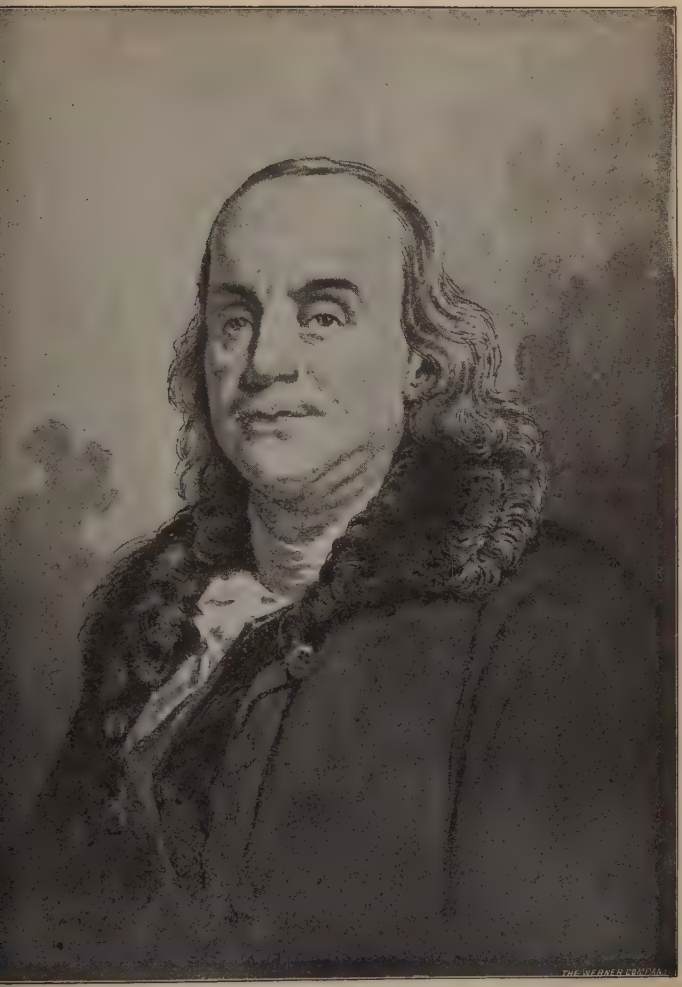
He also invented the iron fireplace, which called the Franklin stove, and is still used whe wood is plentiful and cheap.

After an absence of ten years, he paid a vis to his old home in Boston. Everybody was gla to see him now,—even his brother James, th printer.

When he returned to Philadelphia, he wa elected clerk of the colonial assembly.

Not long after that, he was chosen to be pos master of the city. But his duties in this capac ity did not require very much labor in thos times.

He did not handle as much mail in a whol year as passes now through the Philadelphi post-office in a single hour.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

XII.—Franklin's Rules of Life.

Here are some of the rules of life whi Franklin made for himself when he was a ve young man:

1. To live very frugally till he had paid that he owed.

2. To speak the truth at all times; to be s cere in word and action.

3. To apply himself earnestly to whatev business he took in hand; and to shun all fooli projects for becoming suddenly rich. "For dustry and patience," he said, "are the sure means of plenty."

4. To speak ill of no man whatever, not ev in a matter of truth; but to speak all the goo he knew of everybody.

When he was twenty-six years old, he pu lished the first number of an almanac called *Po Richard's Almanac*.

This almanac was full of wise and witty sa ings, and everybody soon began to talk about

Every year, for twenty-five years, a new nu

r of *Poor Richard's Almanac* was printed. It
s sold in all parts of the country. People
o had no other books would buy and read
or Richard's Almanac. The library of many a
mer consisted of only the family Bible with
e or more numbers of this famous almanac.
Here are a few of Poor Richard's sayings:

"A word to the wise is enough."
"God helps them that help themselves."
"Early to bed and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."
"There are no gains without pains."
"Plow deep while sluggards sleep,
And you shall have corn to sell and to keep."
"One to-day is worth two to-morrows."
"Little strokes fell great oaks."
"Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee."
"The sleeping fox catches no poultry."
"Diligence is the mother of good luck."
"Constant dropping wears away stones."
"A small leak will sink a great ship."
"Who dainties love shall beggars prove."
"Creditors have better memories than debtors."

"Many a little makes a mickle."

"Fools make feasts and wise men eat them."

"Many have been ruined by buying goo pennyworths."

"Rather go to bed supperless than rise in debt

"For age and want save while you may;
No morning sun lasts the whole day."

It is pleasant to know that Franklin observe the rules of life which he made. And his wif Deborah, was as busy and as frugal as himself

They kept no idle servants. Their furnitu was of the cheapest sort. Their food was pla and simple.

Franklin's breakfast, for many years, was on bread and milk; and he ate it out of a tw penny earthen bowl with a pewter spoon.

But at last, when he was called one morning breakfast, he found his milk in a china bowl; an by the side of the bowl there was a silver spoo

His wife had bought them for him as a su prise. She said that she thought her husban deserved a silver spoon and china bowl as we as any of his neighbors.

XIII.—Franklin's Services to the Colonies.

And so, as you have seen, Benjamin Franklin ecame in time one of the foremost men in our untry.

In 1753, when he was forty-five years old, he as made deputy postmaster-general for merica.

He was to have a salary of about $3,000 a ar, and was to pay his own assistants.

People were astonished when he proposed to ve the mail carried regularly once every week tween New York and Boston.

Letters starting from Philadelphia on Monday orning would reach Boston the next Saturday ght. This was thought to be a wonderful d almost impossible feat. But nowadays, ters leaving Philadelphia at midnight are ad at the breakfast table in Boston the next orning.

At that time there were not seventy post-offices the whole country. There are now more than venty thousand.

Benjamin Franklin held the office of deput postmaster-general for the American colonies f twenty-one years.

In 1754 there was a meeting of the leadir men of all the colonies at Albany. There we fears of a war with the French and Indians Canada, and the colonies had sent these men plan some means of defence.

Benjamin Franklin was one of the men fro Pennsylvania at this meeting.

He presented a plan for the union of the c onies, and it was adopted. But our Engli rulers said it was too democratic, and refused let it go into operation.

This scheme of Franklin's set the people of t colonies to thinking. Why should the coloni not unite? Why should they not help one a other, and thus form one great country?

And so, we may truthfully say that it w Benjamin Franklin who first put into mer minds the idea of the great Union which we nc call the United States of America.

The people of the colonies were not hap

der the rule of the English. One by one, laws ere made which they looked upon as oppressive d burdensome. These laws were not intended benefit the American people, but were de- ned to enrich the merchants and politicians of gland.

In 1757 the people of Pennsylvania, Massachu- ts, Maryland, and Georgia, decided to send me one to England to petition against these pressions.

In all the colonies there was no man better ed for this business than Benjamin Franklin. nd so he was the man sent.

The fame of the great American had gone be- e him. Everybody seemed anxious to do him nor.

He met many of the leading men of the day, d he at last succeeded in gaining the object of mission.

But such business moved slowly in those times. ve years passed before he was ready to return America.

He reached Philadelphia in November, 1762,

and the colonial assembly of Pennsylvan thanked him publicly for his great services.

But new troubles soon came up between t colonies and the government in England. Oth laws were passed, more oppressive than before.

It was proposed to tax the colonies, and force the colonists to buy stamped paper. Th last act was called the Stamp Tax, and the Am ican people opposed it with all their might.

Scarcely had Franklin been at home two yea when he was again sent to England to plead t cause of his countrymen.

This time he remained abroad for more th ten years; but he was not so successful as befo

In 1774 he appeared before the King's coun to present a petition from the people of Mass chusetts.

He was now a venerable man nearly seven years of age. He was the most famous man America.

His petition was rejected. He himself w shamefully insulted and abused by one of t members of the council. The next day he w

smissed from the office of deputy postmaster-
neral of America.

In May, 1775, he was again at home in Phila-
lphia.

Two weeks before his arrival the battle of Lex-
gton had been fought, and the war of the Revo-
ion had been begun.

Franklin had done all that he could to persuade
e English king to deal justly with the Amer-
n colonies. But the king and his counsellors
d refused to listen to him.

During his ten years abroad he had not stayed
the time in England. He had traveled in
ny countries of Europe, and had visited Paris
veral times.

Many changes had taken place while he was
sent.

His wife, Mrs. Deborah Franklin, had died.
s parents and fifteen of his brothers and sisters
d also been laid in the grave.

The rest of his days were to be spent in the
vice of his country, to which he had already
ven nearly twenty years of his life.

XIV.—Franklin's Wonderful Kite.

Benjamin Franklin was not only a printe politician, and statesman, he was the first s entist of America. In the midst of perplexi cares it was his delight to study the laws of n ture and try to understand some of the myste ies of creation.

In his time no very great discoveries had y been made. The steam engine was unknow The telegraph had not so much as been dream about. Thousands of comforts which we no enjoy through the discoveries of science we then unthought of; or if thought of, they we deemed to be impossible.

Franklin began to make experiments in ele tricity when he was about forty years old.

He was the first person to discover that ligh ning is caused by electricity. He had lon thought that this was true, but he had no mea of proving it.

He thought that if he could stand on some hig

wer during a thunder-storm, he might be able draw some of the electricity from the clouds rough a pointed iron rod. But there was no gh tower in Philadelphia. There was not even tall church spire.

At last he thought of making a kite and send- g it up to the clouds. A paper kite, however, ould be ruined by the rain and would not fly to ıy great height.

So instead of paper he used a light silk hand- erchief which he fastened to two slender but rong cross pieces. At the top of the kite he aced a pointed iron rod. The string was of emp, except a short piece at the lower end, hich was of silk. At the end of the hemp ring an iron key was tied.

"I think that is a queer kind of kite," said ranklin's little boy. "What are you going to o with it?"

"Wait until the next thunder-storm, and you ill see," said Franklin. "You may go with me nd we will send it up to the clouds."

He told no one else about it, for if the experi-

ment should fail, he did not care to have ever body laugh at him.

At last, one day, a thunder-storm came u and Franklin, with his son, went out into a field t fly his kite. There was a steady breeze, and it wa easy to send the kite far up towards the cloud

Then, holding the silken end of the string Franklin stood under a little shed in the field and watched to see what would happen.

The lightnings flashed, the thunder rolled, bu there was no sign of electricity in the kite. A last, when he was about to give up the exper ment, Franklin saw the loose fibres of his hempe string begin to move.

He put his knuckles close to the key, an sparks of fire came flying to his hand. He wa wild with delight. The sparks of fire were elec tricity; he had drawn them from the clouds.

That experiment, if Franklin had only know it, was a very dangerous one. It was fortunate fo him, and for the world, that he suffered no harm More than one person who has since tried to draw electricity from the clouds has been killed by th

ghtning that has flashed down the hempen
te string.

When Franklin's discovery was made known
caused great excitement among the learned
en of Europe. They could not believe it was
ue until some of them had proved it by similar
xperiments.

They could hardly believe that a man in the
r-away city of Philadelphia could make a dis-
overy which they had never thought of as pos-
ble. Indeed, how could an American do any-
ing that was worth doing?

Franklin soon became famous in foreign coun-
ies as a philosopher and man of science. The
niversities of Oxford and Edinburgh honored
m by conferring upon him their highest de-
ees. He was now *Doctor* Benjamin Franklin.
ut in America people still thought of him only
a man of affairs, as a great printer, and as the
itor of *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

All this happened before the beginning of his
reer as ambassador from the colonies to the
ng and government of England.

I cannot tell you of all of his discoveries i
science. He invented the lightning-rod, and, b
trying many experiments, he learned more abou
electricity than the world had ever known befor

He made many curious experiments to di
cover the laws of heat, light, and sound. B
laying strips of colored cloth on snow, he learne
which colors are the best conductors of heat.

He invented the harmonica, an ingenious mus
cal instrument, in which the sounds were pr
duced by musical glasses.

During his long stay abroad he did not negle
his scientific studies. He visited many of th
greatest scholars of the time, and was every
where received with much honor.

The great scientific societies of Europe, th
Royal Academies in Paris and in Madrid, ha
already elected him as one of their member
The King of France wrote him a letter, thank
ing him for his useful discoveries in electricity
and for his invention of the lightning-rod.

All this would have made some men ver
proud. But it was not so with Dr. Franklin. I

letter which he wrote to a friend at the time hen these honors were beginning to be showed upon him, he said:

"The pride of man is very differently gratified; nd had his Majesty sent me a marshal's staff I ink I should scarce have been so proud of it as am of your esteem."

XV.—The Last Years.

In 1776 delegates from all the colonies met in hiladelphia. They formed what is called the econd Continental Congress of America.

It was now more than a year since the war ad begun, and the colonists had made up their inds not to submit to the king of England and is council.

Many of them were strongly in favor of setng up a new government of their own.

A committee was appointed to draft a declaation of independence, and Benjamin Franklin as one of that committee.

On the 4th of July, Congress declared the col-

onies to be free and independent states. Amon the signers of the Declaration of Independenc was Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania.

Soon after this Dr. Franklin was sent to Par as minister from the United States. Early in th following year, 1777, he induced the king c France to acknowledge the independence of th country.

He thus secured aid for the Americans a a time when they were in the greatest nee of it. Had it not been for his services at thi time, the war of the Revolution might have ende very differently, indeed.

It was not until 1785 that he was again able t return to his home.

He was then nearly eighty years old.

He had served his country faithfully for fifty three years. He would have been glad if h might retire to private life.

When he reached Philadelphia he was receive with joy by thousands of his countrymen. Gen eral Washington was among the first to welcom him, and to thank him for his great services.

That same year the grateful people of his state ected him President of Pennsylvania.

Two years afterwards, he wrote:

"I am here in my *niche* in my own house, in the som of my family, my daughter and grand-ildren all about me, among my old friends, or e sons of my friends, who equally respect me.

"In short, I enjoy here every opportunity of ing good, and everything else I could wish , except repose; and that I may soon expect, her by the cessation of my office which can-t last more than three years, or by ceasing to e."

The next year he was a delegate to the con-ntion which formed the present Constitution the United States.

In a letter written to his friend Washington t long afterwards, he said: "For my personal se I should have died two years ago; but ough those years have been spent in pain, I n glad to have lived them, since I can look upon r present situation."

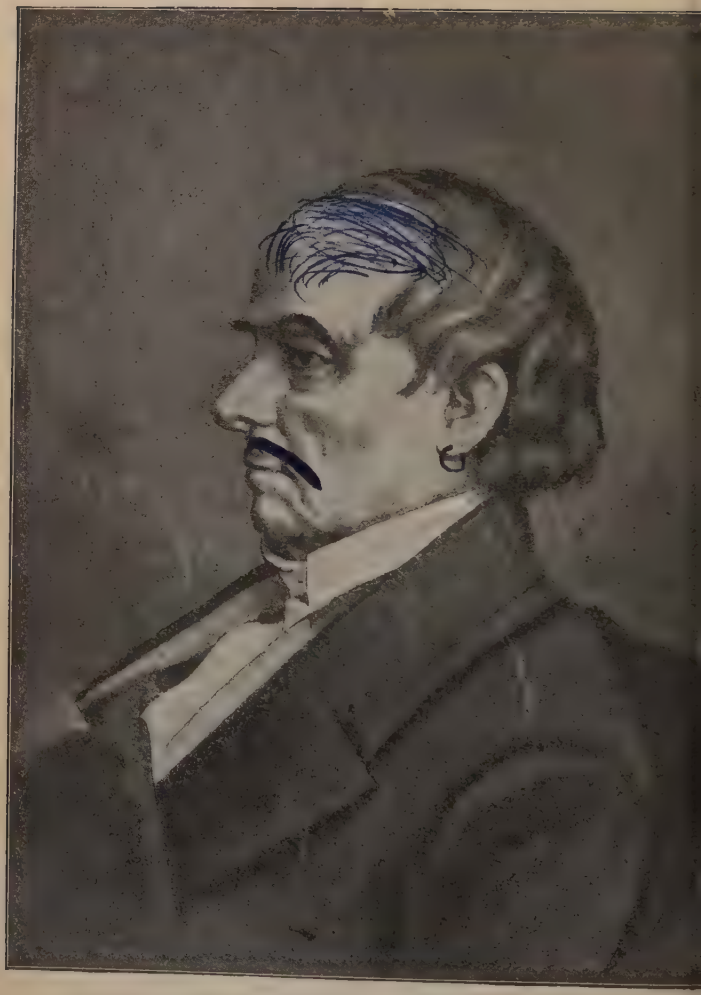
In April, 1790, he died, and was buried by the

side of his wife, Deborah, in Arch street grav yard in Philadelphia. His age was eighty-fo years and three months.

Many years before his death he had writte the following epitaph for himself :

"The Body
of
Benjamin Franklin, Printer,
(Like the cover of an old book,
Its contents torn out,
And stripped of its lettering and gilding,)
Lies here food for worms.
Yet the work itself shall not be lost,
For it will (as he believed) appear once more
In a new
And more beautiful Edition,
Corrected and Amended
By
The Author."

THE STORY OF DANIEL WEBSTER



DANIEL WEBSTER.

THE STORY OF DANIEL WEBSTER.

I.—Captain Webster.

Many years ago there lived in New Hampshire
poor farmer, whose name was Ebenezer Web-
r.

His little farm was among the hills, not far
m the Merrimac River. It was a beautiful
ce to live in; but the ground was poor, and
re were so many rocks that you would won-
how anything could grow among them.

Ebenezer Webster was known far and wide as
rave, wise man. When any of his neighbors
re in trouble or in doubt about anything, they
ays said, "We will ask Captain Webster about

They called him Captain because he had fought
French and Indians and had been a brave
dier in the Revolutionary War. Indeed, he

was one of the first men in New Hampshire take up arms for his country.

When he heard that the British were sendi soldiers to America to force the people to ob the unjust laws of the king of England, he sa "We must never submit to this."

So he went among his neighbors and persuad them to sign a pledge to do all that they cou to defend the country against the British. Th he raised a company of two hundred men a led them to Boston to join the American arm

The Revolutionary War lasted several yea and during all that time, Captain Webster w known as one of the bravest of the American triots.

One day, at West Point, he met General Wa ington. The patriots were in great trouble that time, for one of their leaders had turn traitor and had gone to help the British. T officers and soldiers were much distressed, they did not know who might be the next to sert them.

As I have said, Captain Webster met Gene

ashington. The general took the captain's nd, and said: "I believe that I can trust you, ptain Webster."

You may believe that this made Captain Webr feel very happy. When he went back to his mble home among the New Hampshire hills, was never so proud as when telling his neighs about this meeting with General Washing-

f you could have seen Captain Ebenezer Web- in those days, you would have looked at him re than once. He was a remarkable man. was very tall and straight, with dark, glowing s, and hair as black as night. His face was d, but it showed much firmness and deon.

He had never attended school; but he had d, as well as he could, to educate himself. It on account of his honesty and good judgt that he was looked up to as the leading in the neighborhood.

some way, I do not know how, he had got- a little knowledge of the law. And at last,

because of this as well as because of his sou
common sense, he was appointed judge of t
court in his county.

This was several years after the war was ov
He was now no longer called Captain Webst
but Judge Webster.

It had been very hard for him to make a livi
for his large family on the stony farm among
hills. But now his office as judge would bri
him three hundred or four hundred dollars a ye
He had never had so much money in his life.

"Judge Webster," said one of his neighb
"what are you going to do with the money t
you get from your office? Going to build a n
house?"

"Well, no," said the judge. "The old ho
is small, but we have lived in it a long time, a
it still does very well."

"Then I suppose you are planning to buy m
land?" said the neighbor.

"No, indeed, I have as much land now as I
cultivate. But I will tell you what I am go
to do with my money. I am going to try to

ate my boys. I would rather do this than have
nds and houses."

II.—The Youngest Son.

Ebenezer Webster had several sons. But at
e time that he was appointed judge there were
ly two at home. The older ones were grown
and were doing for themselves.

It was of the two at home that he was think-
g when he said, "I am going to try to educate
y boys."

Of the ten children in the family, the favorite
as a black-haired, dark-skinned little fellow
lled Daniel. He was the youngest of all the
ys; but there was one girl who was younger
an he.

Daniel Webster was born on the 18th of Jan-
ry, 1782.

He was a puny child, very slender and weak;
d the neighbors were fond of telling his
other that he could not live long. Perhaps
s was one of the things that caused him to be
ored and petted by his parents.

But there were other reasons why every o was attracted by him. There were other reaso why his brothers and sisters were always rea to do him a service.

He was an affectionate, loving child; and was wonderfully bright and quick.

He was not strong enough to work on the fa like other boys. He spent much of his time pla ing in the woods or roaming among the hills.

And when he was not at play he was quite su to be found in some quiet corner with a book his hand. He afterwards said of himself: " those boyish days there were two things tha dearly loved—reading and playing."

He could never tell how or when he had learn to read. Perhaps his mother had taught h when he was but a mere babe.

He was very young when he was first sent school. The school-house was two or three mi away, but he did not mind the long walk throu the woods and over the hills.

It was not a great while until he had learn all that his teacher was able to teach him; for

d a quick understanding, and he remembered
erything that he read.

The people of the neighborhood never tired of
king about "Webster's boy," as they called him.
l agreed that he was a wonderful child.

Some said that so wonderful a child was sure
die young. Others said that if he lived he
uld certainly become a very great man.

When the farmers, on their way to market,
ve past Judge Webster's house, they were
ays glad if they could see the delicate boy,
h his great dark eyes.

f it was near the hour of noon, they would
p their teams under the shady elms and ask
n to come out and read to them. Then,
ile their horses rested and ate, they would sit
nd the boy and listen to his wonderful tones
he read page after page from the Bible.

There were no children's books in those times.
leed, there were very few books to be had of
y kind. But young Daniel Webster found
hing too hard to read.

"I read what I could get to read," he after-

wards said; "I went to school when I coul and when not at school, was a farmer's younge boy, not good for much for want of health ar strength, but expected to do something."

One day the man who kept the little store the village, showed him something that ma his heart leap.

It was a cotton handkerchief with the Cons tution of the United States printed on one si of it.

In those days people were talking a great de about the Constitution, for it had just then co into force.

Daniel had never read it. When he saw t handkerchief he could not rest till he had ma it his own.

He counted all his pennies, he borrowed a fe from his brother Ezekiel. Then he hurried ba to the store and bought the wished-for treasur

In a short time he knew everything in the Co stitution, and could repeat whole sections of from memory. We shall learn that, when afterwards became one of the great men of t

tion, he proved to be the Constitution's wisest
end and ablest defender.

Shelby Co.
District 102

III.—Ezekiel and Daniel.

Ezekiel Webster was two years older than
brother Daniel. He was a strong, manly
low, and was ready at all times to do a kind-
ss to the lad who had not been gifted with so
uch health and strength.

But he had not Daniel's quickness of mind,
d he always looked to his younger brother
advice and instruction.

And so there was much love between the two
others, each helping the other according to his
ents and his ability.

One day they went together to the county
r. Each had a few cents in his pocket for
ending-money, and both expected to have a
e time.

When they came home in the evening Daniel
emed very happy, but Ezekiel was silent.

"Well, Daniel," said their mother, "what d you do with your money?"

"I spent it at the fair," said Daniel.

"And what did you do with yours, Ezekiel

"I lent it to Daniel," was the answer.

It was this way at all times, and with ever body. Not only Ezekiel, but others were ev ready to give up their own means of enjoyme if only it would make Daniel happy.

At another time the brothers were standir together by their father, who had just come hon after several days' absence.

"Ezekiel," said Mr. Webster, "what have yo been doing since I went away?"

"Nothing, sir," said Ezekiel.

"You are very frank," said the judge. The turning to Daniel, he said:

"What have you been doing, Dan?"

"Helping Zeke," said Daniel.

When Judge Webster said to his neighbor, " am going to try to educate my boys," he had n thought of ever being able to send both of the to college.

Ezekiel, he said to himself, was strong and arty. He could make his own way in the orld without having a finished education.

But Daniel had little strength of body, although was gifted with great mental powers. It was that must be the scholar of the family.

The judge argued with himself that since he ould be able to educate only one of the boys, must educate that one who gave the greatest omise of success. And yet, had it not been r his poverty, he would gladly have given the me opportunities to both.

IV.—Plans for the Future.

One hot day in summer the judge and his ungest son were at work together in the hay-ld.

"Daniel," said the judge, "I am thinking that is kind of work is hardly the right thing for u. You must prepare yourself for greater ings than pitching hay."

"What do you mean, father?" asked Daniel.

"I mean that you must have that which I hav always felt the need of. You must have a goo education; for without an education a man i always at a disadvantage. If I had been able t go to school when I was a boy, I might have don more for my country than I have. But as it i I can do nothing but struggle here for the mean of living."

"Zeke and I will help you, father," said Da iel; "and now that you are growing old, yo need not work so hard."

"I am not complaining about the work," sai the judge. "I live only for my children. Whe your older brothers were growing up I was to poor to give them an education; but I am ab now to do something for you, and I mean t send you to a good school."

"Oh, father, how kind you are!" cried Danie

"If you will study hard," said his father- "if you will do your best, and learn all that yo can, you will not have to endure such hardshi as I have endured. And then you will be ab to do so much more good in the world."

The boy's heart was touched by the manner n which his father spoke these words. He ropped his rake; he threw his arms around is father's neck, and cried for thankfulness nd joy.

It was not until the next spring that Judge Vebster felt himself able to carry out his plans o send Daniel to school.

One evening he said, "Daniel, you must be up arly in the morning, I am going with you to Exeter."

"To Exeter?" said the boy.

"Yes, to Exeter. I am going to put you in ne academy there."

The academy at Exeter was then, as it still is, a amous place for preparing boys for college. But Daniel's father did not say anything about mak- ng him ready for college. The judge knew that ne expenses would be heavy, and he was not ure that he would ever be able to give him a fin- shed education.

It was nearly fifty miles to Exeter, and Daniel nd his father were to ride there on horseback.

That was almost the only way of traveling i those days.

The next morning two horses were brought t the door. One was Judge Webster's horse, th other was a gentle nag, with a lady's side-saddl on his back.

"Who is going to ride on that nag?" aske Daniel.

"Young Dan Webster," answered the judge.

"But I don't want a side-saddle. I am not lady."

"Neighbor Johnson is sending the nag to E eter for the use of a lady who is to ride back wit me. I accommodate him by taking charge o the animal, and he accommodates me by allow ing you to ride on it."

"But won't it look rather funny for me to rid to Exeter on a lady's saddle?"

"If a lady can ride on it, perhaps Dan Wel ster can do as much."

And so they set out on their journey to Exete The judge rode in advance, and Daniel, sittin astride of the lady's saddle, followed behind.

It was, no doubt, a funny sight to see them rid-
g thus along the muddy roads. None of the
ountry people who stopped to gaze at them
ould have guessed that the dark-faced lad who
de so awkwardly would some day become one
the greatest men of the age.

It was thus that Daniel Webster made his first
ppearance among strangers.

V.—At Exeter Academy.

It was the first time that Daniel Webster had
een so far from home. He was bashful and
vkward. His clothes were of home-made stuff,
nd they were cut in the quaint style of the
ack-country districts.

He must have been a funny-looking fellow.
o wonder that the boys laughed when they saw
m going up to the principal to be examined for
lmission.

The principal of the academy at that time was
r. Benjamin Abbott. He was a great scholar
nd a very dignified gentleman.

He looked down at the slender, black-eyed bo and asked :

"What is your age, sir?"

"Fourteen years," said Daniel.

"I will examine you first in reading. Take th Bible, and let me hear you read some of thes verses."

He pointed to the twenty-second chapter o Saint Luke's Gospel.

The boy took the book and began to read. H had read this chapter a hundred times befor Indeed, there was no part of the Bible that wa not familiar to him.

He read with a clearness and fervor which fe men could equal.

The dignified principal was astonished. H stood as though spell-bound, listening to the rich mellow tones of the bashful lad from among th hills.

In the case of most boys it was enough if h heard them read a verse or two. But he allowe Daniel Webster to read on until he had finishe the chapter. Then he said :

"There is no need to examine you further. ou are fully qualified to enter this academy."

Most of the boys at Exeter were gentlemen's ns. They dressed well, they had been taught ie manners, they had the speech of cultivated eople.

They laughed at the awkward, new boy. They ade fun of his homespun coat; they twitted m on account of his poverty; they annoyed m in a hundred ways.

Daniel felt hurt by this cruel treatment. He ieved bitterly over it in secret, but he did not sent it.

He studied hard and read much. He was soon the head of all his classes. His schoolmates ased laughing at him; for they saw that, with l his uncouth ways, he had more ability than ıy of them.

He had, as I have said, a wonderful memy. He had also a quick insight and sound dgment.

But he had had so little experience with the orld, that he was not sure of his own powers.

He knew that he was awkward; and this ma
him timid and bashful.

When it came his turn to declaim before t
school, he had not the courage to do it. Lo
afterwards, when he had become the greatest
ator of modern times, he told how hard this thi
had been for him at Exeter:

"Many a piece did I commit to memory, a
rehearse in my room over and over again. B
when the day came, when the school collecte
when my name was called and I saw all ey
turned upon my seat, I could not raise mys
from it.

"Sometimes the masters frowned, sometim
they smiled. My tutor always pressed and
treated with the most winning kindness that
would venture only *once;* but I could not co
mand sufficient resolution, and when the occ
sion was over I went home and wept tears of b
ter mortification."

Daniel stayed nine months at Exeter. In tho
nine months he did as much as the other boys
his age could do in two years.

He mastered arithmetic, geography, grammar, ıd rhetoric. He also began the study of Latin. esides this, he was a great reader of all kinds of ooks, and he added something every day to his eneral stock of knowledge.

His teachers did not oblige him to follow a aded course of study. They did not hold m back with the duller pupils of his class. ıey did not oblige him to wait until the end of e year before he could be promoted or could gin the study of a new subject.

But they encouraged him to do his best. As on as he had finished one subject, he advanced a more difficult one.

More than fifty years afterwards, Dr. Abbott clared that in all his long experience he had ver known any one whose power of gaining owledge was at all equal to that of the bashful untry lad from the New Hampshire hills.

Judge Webster would have been glad to let niel stay at Exeter until he had finished the ıdies required at the academy. But he could t afford the expense.

If he should spend all his money to keep t
boy at the academy, how could he afterwar
find the means to send him to college where t
expenses would be much greater?

So he thought it best to find a private teach
for the boy. This would be cheaper.

VI.—Getting Ready for College.

One day in the early winter, Judge Webst
asked Daniel to ride with him to Boscawen. B
cawen was a little town, six miles away, wh
they sometimes went for business or for pleasu

Snow was on the ground. Father and son ro
together in a little, old-fashioned sleigh; and
they rode, they talked about many things. Ju
as they were going up the last hill, Judge We
ster said:

"Daniel, do you know the Rev. Samuel Woo
here in Boscawen?"

"I have heard of him," said Daniel. "I
takes boys into his family, and gets them rea
for college."

"Yes, and he does it cheap, too," said his ther. "He charges only a dollar a week for oard and tuition, fuel and lights and every- ing."

"But they say he is a fine teacher," said Daniel. His boys never fail in the college examinations."

"That is what I have heard, too," answered s father. "And now, Dannie, I may as well ll you a secret. For the last six years I have een planning to have you take a course in Dart- outh College. I want you to stay with Dr. Vood this winter, and he will get you ready to nter. We might as well go and see him now."

This was the first time that Daniel had ever eard his father speak of sending him to college. is heart was so full that he could not say a ord. But the tears came in his eyes as he oked up into the judge's stern, kind face.

He knew that if his father carried out this plan, would cost a great deal of money; and if this oney should be spent for him, then the rest of e family would have to deny themselves of any comforts which they might otherwise have.

"Oh, never mind that, Dan," said his broth Ezekiel. "We are never so happy as when w are doing something for you. And we kno that you will do something for us, some time."

And so the boy spent the winter in Boscawe with Dr. Wood. He learned everything ver easily, but he was not as close a student as h had been at Exeter.

He was very fond of sport. He liked to g fishing. And sometimes, when the weather wa fine, his studies were sadly neglected.

There was a circulating library in Boscawe and Daniel read every book that was in Sometimes he slighted his Latin for the sake giving more time to such reading.

One of the books in the library was *Don Qui ote*. Daniel thought it the most wonderful sto in existence. He afterwards said:

"I began to read it, and it is literally true th I never closed my eyes until I had finished it, great was the power of this extraordinary boo on my imagination."

But it was so easy for the boy to learn, that

ade very rapid progress in all his studies. In ss than a year, Dr. Wood declared that he was ady for college.

He was then fifteen years old. He had a etty thorough knowledge of arithmetic; but e had never studied algebra or geometry. In atin he had read four of Cicero's orations, and x books of Virgil's *Æneid*. He knew some- ing of the elements of Greek grammar, and ad read a portion of the Greek Testament.

Nowadays, a young man could hardly enter en a third-rate college without a better prep- ation than that. But colleges are much more orough than they were a hundred years ago.

VII.—At Dartmouth College.

Dartmouth College is at Hanover, New Hamp- ire. It is one of the oldest colleges in Amer- a and among its students have been many of e foremost men of New England.

It was in the fall of 1797, that Daniel Webster ntered this college.

He was then a tall, slender youth, with hig
cheek bones and a swarthy skin.

The professors soon saw that he was no com
mon lad. They said to one another, "Thi
young Webster will one day be a greater ma
than any of us."

And young Webster was well-behaved an
studious at college. He was as fond of sport a
any of the students, but he never gave himsel
up to boyish pranks.

He was punctual and regular in all his classe
He was as great a reader as ever.

He could learn anything that he tried. N
other young man had a broader knowledge o
things than he.

And yet he did not make his mark as a st
dent in the prescribed branches of study. H
could not confine himself to the narrow routin
of the college course.

He did not, as at Exeter, push his way quickl
to the head of his class. He won no prizes.

"But he minded his own business," said one
the professors. "As steady as the sun, he pu

ued, with intense application, the great object or which he came to college."

Soon everybody began to appreciate his cholarship. Everybody admired him for his anliness and good common sense.

"He was looked upon as being so far in advance of any one else, that no other student of is class was ever spoken of as second to him."

He very soon lost that bashfulness which had roubled him so much at Exeter. It was no task ow for him to stand up and declaim before the rofessors and students.

In a short time he became known as the best riter and speaker in the college. Indeed, he oved to speak ; and the other students were alays pleased to listen to him.

One of his classmates tells us how he prepared is speeches. He says: "It was Webster's custom to arrange his thoughts in his mind while e was in his room, or while he was walking lone. Then he would put them upon paper just efore the exercise was to be called for.

"If he was to speak at two o'clock, he would

often begin to write after dinner; and when the bell rang he would fold his paper, put it in his pocket, go in, and speak with great ease.

"In his movements he was slow and deliberate, except when his feelings were aroused. Then his whole soul would kindle into a flame."

In the year 1800, he was chosen to deliver the Fourth of July address to the students of the college and the citizens of the town. He was then eighteen years old.

The speech was a long one. It was full of the love of country. Its tone throughout was earnest and thoughtful.

But in its style it was overdone; it was full of pretentious expressions; it lacked the simplicity and good common sense that should mark all public addresses.

And yet, as the speech of so young a man, it was a very able effort. People said that it was the promise of much greater things. And they were right.

In the summer of 1801, Daniel graduated

But he took no honors. He was not even present at the Commencement.

His friends were grieved that he had not been chosen to deliver the valedictory address. Perhaps he also was disappointed. But the professors had thought best to give that honor to another student.

VIII.—How Daniel Taught School.

While Daniel Webster was taking his course in college, there was one thing that troubled him very much. It was the thought of his brother Ezekiel toiling at home on the farm.

He knew that Ezekiel had great abilities. He knew that he was not fond of the farm, but that he was anxious to become a lawyer.

This brother had given up all his dearest plans in order that Daniel might be favored; and Daniel knew that this was so.

Once, when Daniel was at home on a vacation, he said, "Zeke, this thing is all wrong. Father has mortgaged the farm for money to pay my expenses at school, and you are making a slave of

yourself to pay off the mortgage. It isn't righ for me to let you do this."

Ezekiel said, "Daniel, I am stronger than you are, and if one of us has to stay on the farm, o course I am the one."

"But I want you to go to college," said Dan iel. "An education will do you as much good as me."

"I doubt it," said Ezekiel; "and yet, if father was only able to send us both. I think that we might pay him back some time."

"I will see father about it this very day," said Daniel.

He did see him.

"I told my father," said Daniel, afterwards "that I was unhappy at my brother's prospects For myself, I saw my way to knowledge, respectability, and self-protection. But as to Ezekiel, all looked the other way. I said that would keep school, and get along as well as could, be more than four years in getting through college, if necessary, provided he also could be sent to study."

The matter was referred to Daniel's mother, nd she and his father talked it over together. hey knew that it would take all the property ey had to educate both the boys. They knew at they would have to do without many com- rts, and that they would have a hard strug- le to make a living while the boys were udying.

But the mother said, "I will trust the boys." nd it was settled that Ezekiel, too, should have chance to make his mark in the world.

He was now a grown-up man. He was tall nd strong and ambitious. He entered college e very year that Daniel graduated.

As for Daniel, he was now ready to choose a rofession. What should it be?

His father wanted him to become a lawyer. nd so, to please his parents, he went home and egan to read law in the office of a Mr. Thomp- n, in the little village of Salisbury, which ad- ined his father's farm.

The summer passed by. It was very pleasant have nothing to do but to read. And when

the young man grew tired of reading, he cou
go out fishing, or could spend a day in hunti
among the New Hampshire hills.

It is safe to say that he did not learn very mu
law during that summer.

But there was not a day that he did not thi
about his brother. Ezekiel had done much
help him through college, and now ought he n
to help Ezekiel?

But what could he do?

He had a good education, and his first thoug
was that he might teach school, and thus earn
little money for Ezekiel.

The people of Fryeburg, in Maine, wanted hi
to take charge of the academy in their little tow
And so, early in the fall, he decided to take u
with their offer.

He was to have three hundred and fifty do
lars for the year's work, and that would he
Ezekiel a great deal.

He bade good-bye to Mr. Thompson and h
little law office, and made ready to go to his ne
field of labor. There were no railroads at th

ne, and a journey of even a few miles was a eat undertaking.

Daniel had bought a horse for twenty-four llars. In one end of an old-fashioned pair of ddle-bags he put his Sunday clothes, and in the her he packed his books.

He laid the saddle-bags upon the horse, then mounted and rode off over the hills toward yeburg, sixty miles away.

He was not yet quite twenty years old. He was ry slender, and nearly six feet in height. His ce was thin and dark. His eyes were black d bright and penetrating—no person who once w them could ever forget them.

Young as he was, he was very successful as a acher during that year which he spent at Frye- rg. The trustees of the academy were so highly eased that they wanted him to stay a second ar. They promised to raise his salary to five six hundred dollars, and to give him a house d a piece of land.

He was greatly tempted to give up all further oughts of becoming a lawyer.

"What shall I do?" he said to himself. "Sha I say, 'Yes, gentlemen,' and sit down here t spend my days in a kind of comfortable pr vacy?"

But his father was anxious that he should r turn to the study of the law. And so he was no long in making up his mind.

In a letter to one of his friends he said: " shall make one more trial of the law in the ensu ing autumn.

"If I prosecute the profession, I pray God t fortify me against its temptations. To be hones to be capable, to be faithful to my client and m conscience."

Early the next September, he was again in M Thompson's little law office. All the money tha he had saved, while at Fryeburg, was spent t help Ezekiel through college.

IX.—Daniel Goes to Boston.

For a year and a half, young Daniel Webste stayed in the office of Mr. Thompson. He ha

ow fully made up his mind as to what profes-
on he would follow ; and so he was a much bet-
r student than he had been before.

He read many law books with care. He read
ume's History of England, and spent a good
eal of time with the Latin classics.

"At this period of my life," he afterwards said,
passed a great deal of time alone.

"My amusements were fishing and shooting
d riding, and all these were without a compan-
n. I loved this solitude then, and have loved
ever since, and love it still."

The Webster family were still very poor.
dge Webster was now too old to do much work
any kind. The farm had been mortgaged for
l that it was worth. It was hard to find money
ough to keep Daniel at his law studies and
zekiel in college.

At last it became necessary for one of the
ung men to do something that would help
atters along. Ezekiel decided that he would
ave college for a time and try to earn enough
oney to meet the present needs of the family.

Through some of his friends he obtained a sma
private school in Boston.

There were very few pupils in Ezekiel We
ster's school. But there were so many branch
to be taught that he could not find time to he
all the recitations. So, at last, he sent word
Daniel to come down and help him. If Dani
would teach an hour and a half each day, h
should have enough money to pay his board.

Daniel was pleased with the offer. He had lon
wanted to study law in Boston, and here was h
opportunity. And so, early in March, 1804, h
joined his brother in that city, and was soon d
ing what he could to help him in his little scho

There was in Boston, at that time, a famous law
yer whose name was Christopher Gore. Whi
Daniel Webster was wondering how he cou
best carry on his studies in the city, he hear
that Mr. Gore had no clerk in his office.

"How I should like to read law with M
Gore!" he said to Ezekiel.

"Yes," said Ezekiel. "You could not want
better tutor."

'I mean to see him to-day and apply for a
ce in his office," said Daniel.

t was with many misgivings that the young
n went into the presence of the great law-
. We will let him tell the story in his own
rds:

'I was from the country, I said;—had studied
for two years; had come to Boston to study
ear more; had heard that he had no clerk;
ught it possible he would receive one.

'I told him that I came to Boston to work,
to play; was most desirous, on all accounts,
be his pupil; and all I ventured to ask at pres-
was, that he would keep a place for me in
office, till I could write to New Hampshire for
per letters showing me worthy of it."

Mr. Gore listened to this speech very kindly,
d then bade Daniel be seated while he should
ve a short talk with him.

When at last the young man rose to go, Mr.
re said: "My young friend, you look as if
u might be trusted. You say you came to
dy and not to waste time. I will take you at

your word. You may as well hang up your h at once."

And this was the beginning of Daniel W ster's career in Boston.

He must have done well in Mr. Gore's office ; f in a few months, he was admitted to the pract of law in the Court of Common Pleas in Bost

It was at some time during this same winter th Daniel was offered the position of clerk in t County Court at home. His father, as you w remember, was one of the judges in this cou and he was very much delighted at the thoug that his son would be with him.

The salary would be about fifteen hundr dollars a year—and that was a great sum Daniel as well as to his father. The mortga on the farm could be paid off; Ezekiel cou finish his course in college ; and life would made easier for them all.

At first Daniel was as highly pleased as h father. But after he had talked with Mr. Go he decided not to accept the offered position.

"Your prospects as a lawyer," said Mr. Go

are good enough to encourage you to go on. o on, and finish your studies. You are poor nough, but there are greater evils than poverty. ive on no man's favor. Pursue your profession; ake yourself useful to your friends and a little rmidable to your enemies, and you have noth- g to fear."

A few days after that, Daniel paid a visit to s father. The judge received him very kindly, ut he was greatly disappointed when the young an told him that he had made up his mind not take the place.

With his deep-set, flashing eyes, he looked at is son for a moment as though in anger. Then e said, very slowly:

"Well, my son, your mother has always said at you would come to something or nothing— e was not sure which. I think you are now bout settling that doubt for her."

A few weeks after this, Daniel, as I have al- eady told you, was admitted to the bar in Boston. ut he did not think it best to begin his practice ere.

He knew how anxious his father was that h should be near him. He wanted to do all that h could to cheer and comfort the declining year of the noble man who had sacrificed everythin for him. And so, in the spring of 1805, he se tled in the town of Boscawen, six miles fro home, and put up at his office door this sign:

D. WEBSTER, ATTORNEY.

X.—LAWYER AND CONGRESSMAN.

When Daniel Webster had been in Boscawe nearly two years, his father died. It was the decided that Ezekiel should come and tak charge of the home farm, and care for thei mother.

Ezekiel had not yet graduated from college but he had read law and was hoping to be ad mitted to the bar. He was a man of much nat ural ability, and many people believed that h would some day become a very famous lawye

And so, in the autumn of 1807, Daniel gave p to his brother the law business which he had Boscawen, and removed to the city of Portsouth.

He was now twenty-five years old. In Portsouth he would find plenty of work to do; it ould be the very kind of work that he liked. Ie was now well started on the road towards reatness.

The very next year, he was married to Miss race Fletcher, the daughter of a minister in Iopkinton. The happy couple began housekeeping in a small, modest, wooden house, in ortsmouth; and there they lived, very plainly nd without pretension, for several years.

Mr. Webster's office was "a common, ordinary-ooking room, with less furniture and more books han common. He had a small inner room, pening from the larger, rather an unusual thing."

It was not long until the name of Daniel Webter was known all over New Hampshire. Those vho were acquainted with him said that he was he smartest young lawyer in Portsmouth. They

said that if he kept on in the way that he ha started, there were great things in store for hin

The country people told wonderful storie about him. They said that he was as black as coal—but of course they had never seen hin They believed that he could gain any case i court that he chose to manage—and in this the were about right.

There was another great lawyer in Ports mouth. His name was Jeremiah Mason, and h was much older than Mr. Webster. Indeed, h was already a famous man when Daniel first be gan the practice of law.

The young lawyer and the older one soon be came warm friends; and yet they were often op posed to each other in the courts. Daniel wa always obliged to do his best when Mr. Maso was against him. This caused him to be ver careful. It no doubt made him become a bette lawyer than he otherwise would have been.

While Webster was thus quietly practicin law in New Hampshire, trouble was brewing be tween the United States and England. Th

English were doing much to hinder American merchants from trading with foreign countries. They claimed the right to search American vessels for seamen who had deserted from the British service. And it is said that American sailors were often dragged from their own vessels and forced to serve on board the English ships.

Matters kept getting worse and worse for several years. At last, in June, 1812, the United States declared war against England.

Daniel Webster was opposed to this war, and he made several speeches against it. He said that, although we had doubtless suffered many wrongs, there was more cause for war with France than with England. And then, the United States had no navy, and hence was not ready to go to war with any nation.

Webster's influence in New Hampshire was so great that he persuaded many of the people of that state to think just as he thought on this subject. They nominated him as their representative in Congress; and when the time came, they elected him.

It was on the 24th of May, 1813, that he firs took his seat in Congress. He was then thirty one years old.

In that same Congress there were two othe young men who afterwards made their name famous in the history of their country. One wa Henry Clay, of Kentucky. The other was Joh C. Calhoun, of South Carolina. Both were a li tle older than Webster; both had already mad some mark in public life; and both were in favo of the war.

During his first year in Congress, Mr. Wet ster made some stirring speeches in support o his own opinions. In this way, as well by hi skill in debate, he made himself known as young man of more than common ability an promise.

Chief Justice Marshall, who was then at th head of the Supreme Court of the United State said of him: "I have never seen a man o whose intellect I had a higher opinion."

In 1814, the war that had been going on s long came to an end. But now there were othe

ubjects which claimed Mr. Webster's attention
n Congress.

Then, as now, there were important questions
egarding the money of the nation; and upon
hese questions there was great difference of
pinion. Daniel Webster's speeches, in favor of a
ound currency, did much to maintain the national
redit and to save the country from bankruptcy.

The people of New Hampshire were so well
leased with the record which he made in Con-
ress that, when his first term expired, they re-
lected him for a second.

XI.—The Dartmouth College Case.

In 1816, before his second term in Congress
ad expired, Daniel Webster removed with his
amily to Boston. He had lived in Portsmouth
ine years, and he now felt that he needed a
vider field for the exercise of his talents.

He was now no longer the slender, delicate
erson that he had been in his boyhood and
outh. He was a man of noble mien—a sturdy,

dignified personage, who bore the marks of great ness upon him.

People said, "When Daniel Webster walked the streets of Boston, he made the buildings look small."

As soon as his term in Congress had expired he began the practice of law in Boston.

For nearly seven years he devoted himself strictly to his profession. Of course, he at once took his place as the leading lawyer of New England. Indeed, he soon became known as the ablest counsellor and advocate in America.

The best business of the country now came to him. His income was very large, amounting to more than $20,000 a year.

And during this time there was no harder worker than he. In fact, his natural genius could have done but little for him, had it not been for his untiring industry.

One of his first great victories in law was that which is known as the Dartmouth College case. The lawmakers of New Hampshire had attempted to pass a law to alter the charter of the college

y doing this they would endanger the useful-
ess and prosperity of that great school, in order
favor the selfish projects of its enemies.

Daniel Webster undertook to defend the college.
he speech which he made before the Supreme
ourt of the United States was a masterly effort.
" Sir," he said, " you may destroy this little in-
itution—it is weak, it is in your hands. I know
is one of the lesser lights in the literary hori-
on of our country. You may put it out.
" But if you do so, you must carry through
our work! You must extinguish, one after an-
her, all those greater lights of science which,
r more than a century, have thrown their light
ver our land!"

He won the case; and this, more than any-
ing else, helped to gain for him the reputation
being the ablest lawyer in the United States.

XII.—Webster's Great Orations.

In 1820, when he was thirty-eight years old,
aniel Webster was chosen to deliver an oration

at a great meeting of New Englanders at Pl
mouth, Massachusetts.

Plymouth is the place where the Pilgrir
landed in 1620. Just two hundred years ha
passed since that time, and this meeting was
celebrate the memory of the brave men ar
women who had risked so much to found ne
homes in what was then a bleak wilderness.

The speech which Mr. Webster delivered w
one of the greatest ever heard in America.
placed him at once at the head of America
orators.

John Adams, the second president of th
United States, was then living, a very old ma
He said, "This oration will be read five hundre
years hence with as much rapture as it w
heard. It ought to be read at the end of eve
century, and, indeed, at the end of every yea
forever and ever."

But this was only the first of many gre
addresses by Mr. Webster. In 1825, he d
livered an oration at the laying of the corne
stone of the Bunker Hill monument. Eighte

ars later, when that monument was finished, delivered another. Many of Mr. Webster's mirers think that these two orations are his asterpieces.

On July 4th, 1826, the United States had been dependent just fifty years. On that day there ssed away two of the greatest men of the untry—John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Both were ex-presidents, and both had been aders in the councils of the nation. It was in emory of these two patriots that Daniel Web-er was called to deliver an oration in Faneuil all, Boston.

No other funeral oration has ever been deliv-ed in any age or country that was equal to is in eloquence. Like all his other discourses, was full of patriotic feeling.

"This lovely land," he said, "this glorious lib-ty, these benign institutions, the dear purchase our fathers, are ours; ours to enjoy, ours to eserve, ours to transmit. Generations past and enerations to come hold us responsible for this cred trust.

"Our fathers, from behind, admonish us wi
their anxious, paternal voices; posterity calls o
to us from the bosom of the future; the wor
turns hither its solicitous eyes; all, all conjure
to act wisely and faithfully in the relation whi
we sustain."

Most of his other great speeches were deli
ered in Congress, and are, therefore, political
tone and subject.

Great as Daniel Webster was in politics a
in law, it is as an orator and patriot that h
name will be longest remembered.

XIII.—Mr. Webster in the Senate.

When Daniel Webster was forty years old, th
people of Boston elected him to represent the
in Congress. They were so well pleased with a
that he did while there, that they re-elected hi
twice.

In June, 1827, the legislature of Massachuset
chose him to be United States senator for a ter
of six years. He was at that time the mo

nous man in Massachusetts, and his name
s known and honored in every state of the
ion.

After that he was re-elected to the same place
ain and again; and for more than twenty years
continued to be the distinguished senator from
assachusetts.

I cannot now tell you of all his public services
ring the long period that he sat in Congress.
deed, there are some things that you would
d hard to understand until you have learned
ore about the history of our country. But you
ll by-and-by read of them in the larger books
ich you will study at school; and, no doubt,
u will also read some of his great addresses
d orations.

It was in 1830 that he delivered the most fa-
ous of all his speeches in the senate chamber of
e United States. This speech is commonly
lled, "The Reply to Hayne."

I shall not here try to explain the purport of
r. Hayne's speeches—for there were two of
em. I shall not try to describe the circum-

stances which led Mr. Webster to make his
mous reply to them.

But I will quote Mr. Webster's closing se
tences. Forty years ago the school-boys all ov
the country were accustomed to memorize a
declaim these patriotic utterances.

"When my eyes shall be turned to behold, f
the last time, the sun in heaven, may I not s
him shining on the broken and dishonored fra
ments of a once glorious Union; on states d
severed, discordant, belligerent, on a land re
with civil feuds, or drenched, it may be, in f
ternal blood!

"Let their last feeble and lingering glan
rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the repu
lic, now known and honored throughout th
earth, still high advanced, its arms and trophi
streaming in their original lustre, not a strip
erased or polluted, not a single star obscure
bearing for its motto no such miserable interro
atory, 'What is all this worth?' nor those oth
words of delusion and folly, 'Liberty first an
Union afterwards;' but everywhere, spread a

er in characters of living light, blazing on all folds, as they float over the land, and in every nd under the whole heavens, that other senti- ent, dear to every American heart—Liberty d Union, now and forever, one and insepara- e!"

In 1841, Daniel Webster resigned his seat in e senate. He did this in order to become sec- tary of state in the cabinet of the newly elected esident, William Henry Harrison.

But President Harrison died on the 5th of pril, after having held his office just one month; d his place was taken by the vice-president, hn Tyler. Mr. Webster now felt that his po- ion in the cabinet would not be a pleasant one; t he continued to hold it for nearly two years. His most important act as secretary of state as to conclude a treaty with England which ted the northeastern boundary of the United ates. This treaty is known in history as the shburton Treaty.

In 1843, Mr. Webster resigned his place in resident Tyler's cabinet. But he was not al-

lowed to remain long in private life. Two ye later he was again elected to the United Sta senate.

About this time, Texas was annexed to t United States. But Mr. Webster did not fav this, for he believed that such an act was co trary to the Constitution of our country.

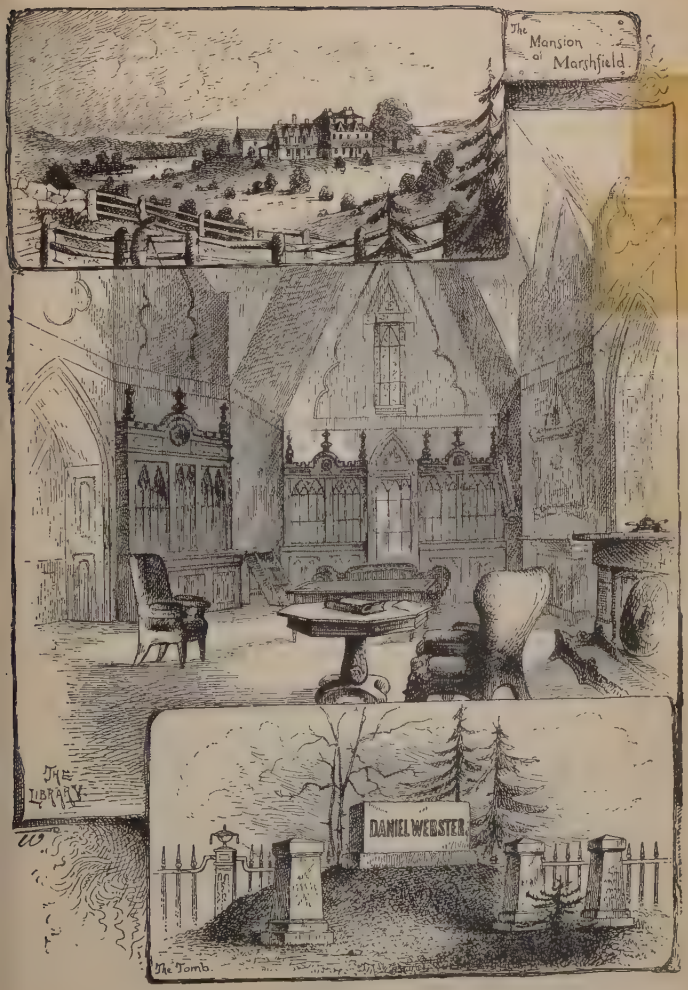
He did all that he could to keep our governme from making war upon Mexico. But after th war had been begun, he was a firm friend of t soldiers who took part in it, and he did much provide for their safety and comfort.

Among these soldiers was Edward, the secon son of Daniel Webster. He became a major the main division of the army, and died in t City of Mexico.

XIV.—Mr. Webster in Private Life.

Let us now go back a little way in our stor and learn something about Mr. Webster's hon and private life.

In 1831, Mr. Webster bought a large farm


The Mansion at Marshfield.
THE LIBRARY.
DANIEL WEBSTER
The Tomb.

Marshfield, in the southeastern part of Massach
setts, not far from the sea.

He spent a great deal of money in impro
ing this farm; and in the end it was as fine
country seat as one might see anywhere in Ne
England.

When he became tired with the many cares
his busy life, Mr. Webster could always find re
and quiet days at Marshfield. He liked to dre
himself as a farmer, and stroll about the fiel
looking at the cattle and at the growing crops.

"I had rather be here than in the senate," h
would say.

But his life was clouded with many sorrow
Long before going to Marshfield, his two elde
children were laid in the grave. Their moth
followed them just one year before Mr. Web
ster's first entry into the United States senate.

In 1829, his brother Ezekiel died suddenl
while speaking in court at Concord. Ezekiel ha
never cared much for politics, but as a lawyer i
his native state, he had won many honors. H
death came as a great shock to everybody tha

new him. To his brother it brought overwhelming sorrow.

When Daniel Webster was nearly forty-eight years old, he married a second wife. She was the daughter of a New York merchant, and her name was Caroline Bayard Le Roy. She did much to lighten the disappointments of his later life, and they lived together happily for more than twenty years.

In 1839, Mr. and Mrs. Webster made a short visit to England. The fame of the great orator had gone before him, and he was everywhere received with honor. The greatest men of the time were proud to meet him.

Henry Hallam, the historian, wrote of him: "Mr. Webster approaches as nearly to the *beau ideal* of a republican senator as any man that I have ever seen in the course of my life."

Even the Queen invited him to dine with her; and she was much pleased with his dignified ways and noble bearing.

And, indeed, his appearance was such as to win the respect of all who saw him. When he

walked the streets of London, people would sto and wonder who the noble stranger was; an workingmen whispered to one another: "The goes a king!"

XV.—The Last Years.

Many people believed that Daniel Webste would finally be elected president of the Unite States. And, indeed, there was no man in a this country who was better fitted for that hig position than he.

But it so happened that inferior men, who wer willing to stoop to the tricks of politics, alway stepped in before him.

In the meanwhile the question of slavery wa becoming, every day, more and more importan It was the one subject which claimed everybody attention.

Should slavery be allowed in the territories

There was great excitement all over the coun try. There were many hot debates in Congress It seemed as though the Union would be de stroyed.

At last, the wiser and cooler-headed leaders in Congress said, "Let each side give up a little to the other. Let us have a compromise."

On the 7th of March, 1850, Mr. Webster delivered a speech before the senate. It was a speech in favor of compromise, in favor of conciliation.

He thought that this was the only way to preserve the Union. And he was willing to sacrifice everything for the Constitution and the Union.

He declared that all the ends he aimed at were for his country's good.

"I speak to-day for the preservation of the Union," he said. "Hear me for my cause! I speak to-day out of a solicitous and anxious heart, for the restoration to the country of that quiet and harmony, which make the blessings of this Union so rich and so dear to us all."

He then went on to defend the law known as the Fugitive Slave Law. He declared that this law was in accordance with the Constitution, and hence it should be enforced according to its true meaning.

The speech was a great disappointment to hi friends. They said that he had deserted them that he had gone over to their enemies ; that h was no longer a champion of freedom, but o slavery.

Those who had been his warmest supporters now turned against him.

A few months after this, President Taylor died The vice-president, Millard Fillmore, then be came president. Mr. Fillmore was in sympathy with Daniel Webster, and soon gave him a sea in his cabinet as secretary of state.

This was the second time that Mr. Webste had been called to fill this high and honorabl position. But, under President Fillmore, he did no very great or important thing.

He was still the leading man in the Whig party ; and he hoped, in 1852, to be nominated for the presidency. But in this he was again disappointed.

He was now an old man. He had had grea successes in life ; but he felt that he had failed at the end of the race. His health was giving

way. He went home to Marshfield for the quiet and rest which he so much needed.

In May, that same year, he was thrown from his carriage and severely hurt. From this hurt he never recovered. He offered to resign his seat in the cabinet, but Mr. Fillmore would not listen to this.

In September he became very feeble, and his friends knew that the end was near. On the 24th of October, 1852, he died. He was nearly seventy-one years old.

In every part of the land his death was sincerely mourned. Both friends and enemies felt that a great man had fallen. They felt that this country had lost its leading statesman, its noblest patriot, its worthiest citizen.

Rufus Choate, who had succeeded him as the foremost lawyer in New England, delivered a great oration upon his life and character. He said:

"Look in how manly a sort, in how high a moral tone, Mr. Webster uniformly dealt with the mind of his country.

"Where do you find him flattering his countrymen, indirectly or directly, for a vote? On what did he ever place himself but good counsels and useful service?

"Who ever heard that voice cheering the people on to rapacity, to injustice, to a vain and guilty glory?

"How anxiously, rather, did he prefer to teach, that by all possible acquired sobriety of mind, by asking reverently of the past, by obedience to the law, by habits of patient labor, by the cultivation of the mind, by the fear and worship of God, we educate ourselves for the future that is revealing."

THE STORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

I.—The Kentucky Home.

Not far from Hodgensville, in Kentucky, there nce lived a man whose name was Thomas Lin-oln. This man had built for himself a little log abin by the side of a brook, where there was an ver-flowing spring of water.

There was but one room in this cabin. On the de next to the brook there was a low doorway; nd at one end there was a large fireplace, built f rough stones and clay.

The chimney was very broad at the bottom nd narrow at the top. It was made of clay, ith flat stones and slender sticks laid around ne outside to keep it from falling apart.

In the wall, on one side of the fireplace, there as a square hole for a window. But there was o glass in this window. In the summer it was

left open all the time. In cold weather a dee skin, or a piece of coarse cloth, was hung ov it to keep out the wind and the snow.

At night, or on stormy days, the skin of bear was hung across the doorway; for there w no door on hinges to be opened and shut.

There was no ceiling to the room. But th inmates of the cabin, by looking up, could see th bare rafters and the rough roof-boards, whic Mr. Lincoln himself had split and hewn.

There was no floor, but only the bare groun that had been smoothed and beaten until it wa as level and hard as pavement.

For chairs there were only blocks of wood ar a rude bench on one side of the fireplace. Th bed was a little platform of poles, on which wer spread the furry skins of wild animals, and patchwork quilt of homespun goods.

In this poor cabin, on the 12th of February 1809, a baby boy was born. There was alread one child in the family—a girl, two years old whose name was Sarah.

The little boy grew and became strong lik

her babies, and his parents named him Abra-
am, after his grandfather, who had been killed
the Indians many years before.

When he was old enough to run about, he liked
play under the trees by the cabin door. Some-
mes he would go with his little sister into the
oods and watch the birds and the squirrels.

He had no playmates. He did not know the
eaning of toys or playthings. But he was a
appy child and had many pleasant ways.

Thomas Lincoln, the father, was a kind-hearted
an, very strong and brave. Sometimes he
ould take the child on his knee and tell him
range, true stories of the great forest, and of
ie Indians and the fierce beasts that roamed
mong the woods and hills.

For Thomas Lincoln had always lived on the
ild frontier; and he would rather hunt deer and
her game in the forest than do anything else.
erhaps this is why he was so poor. Perhaps
is is why he was content to live in the little
g cabin with so few of the comforts of life.

But Nancy Lincoln, the young mother, did not

complain. She, too, had grown up among t
rude scenes of the backwoods. She had nev
known better things.

And yet she was by nature refined and gentl
and people who knew her said that she was ve
handsome. She was a model housekeeper, to
and her poor log cabin was the neatest and be
kept house in all that neighborhood.

No woman could be busier than she. S
knew how to spin and weave, and she made a
the clothing for her family.

She knew how to wield the ax and the ho
and she could work on the farm or in the garde
when her help was needed.

She had also learned how to shoot with a rifl
and she could bring down a deer or other wil
game with as much ease as could her husban
And when the game was brought home, sh
could dress it, she could cook the flesh for foo
and of the skins she could make clothing for he
husband and children.

There was still another thing that she coul
do—she could read ; and she read all the book

at she could get hold of. She taught her husnd the letters of the alphabet ; and she showed m how to write his name. For Thomas Lincln had never gone to school, and he had never arned how to read.

As soon as little Abraham Lincoln was old ough to understand, his mother read stories to m from the Bible. Then, while he was still ry young, she taught him to read the stories r himself.

The neighbors thought it a wonderful thing at so small a boy could read. There were very w of them who could do as much. Few of them ought it of any great use to learn how to read. There were no school-houses in that part of entucky in those days, and of course there ere no public schools.

One winter a traveling schoolmaster came at way. He got leave to use a cabin not far om Mr. Lincoln's, and gave notice that he ould teach school for two or three weeks. The eople were too poor to pay him for teaching nger.

The name of this schoolmaster was Zachari Riney.

The young people for miles around flocked the school. Most of them were big boys a girls, and a few were grown up young me The only little child was Abraham Lincoln, a he was not yet five years old.

There was only one book studied at th school, and it was a spelling-book. It had son easy reading lessons at the end, but these we not to be read until after every word in the boo had been spelled.

You can imagine how the big boys and gi felt when Abraham Lincoln proved that he cou spell and read better than any of them.

II.—Work and Sorrow.

In the autumn, just after Abraham Linco was eight years old, his parents left their Ke tucky home and moved to Spencer county, Indiana.

It was not yet a year since Indiana had becon

a state. Land could be bought very cheap, and Mr. Lincoln thought that he could make a good living there for his family. He had heard also that game was plentiful in the Indiana woods.

It was not more than seventy or eighty miles from the old home to the new. But it seemed very far, indeed, and it was a good many days before the travelers reached their journey's end. Over a part of the way there was no road, and the movers had to cut a path for themselves through the thick woods.

The boy, Abraham, was tall and very strong for his age. He already knew how to handle an ax, and few men could shoot with a rifle better than he. He was his father's helper in all kinds of work.

It was in November when the family came to the place which was to be their future home. Winter was near at hand. There was no house, nor shelter of any kind. What would become of the patient, tired mother, and the gentle little sister, who had borne themselves so bravely during the long, hard journey?

No sooner had the horses been loosed fro the wagon than Abraham and his father were work with their axes. In a short time they ha built what they called a "camp."

This camp was but a rude shed, made of pol and thatched with leaves and branches. It wa enclosed on three sides, so that the chill wind or the driving rains from the north and west coul not enter. The fourth side was left open, and i front of it a fire was built.

This fire was kept burning all the time. warmed the interior of the camp. A big iro kettle was hung over it by means of a chain an pole, and in this kettle the fat bacon, the venison the beans, and the corn were boiled for the fam ily's dinner and supper. In the hot ashes th good mother baked luscious "corn dodgers, and sometimes, perhaps, a few potatoes.

In one end of the camp were the few cooking utensils and little articles of furniture which ever the poorest house cannot do without. The res of the space was the family sitting-room an bed-room. The floor was covered with leaves

ıd on these were spread the furry skins of deer ıd bears, and other animals.

It was in this camp that the family spent their rst winter in Indiana. How very cold and reary that winter must have been! Think of e stormy nights, of the shrieking wind, of the ıow and the sleet and the bitter frost! It is ɔt much wonder if, before the spring months ıme, the mother's strength began to fail.

But it was a busy winter for Thomas Lincoln. very day his ax was heard in the woods. He as clearing the ground, so that in the spring it ight be planted with corn and vegetables.

He was hewing logs for his new house; for he ıd made up his mind, now, to have something ɛtter than a cabin.

The woods were full of wild animals. It as easy for Abraham and his father to kill enty of game, and thus keep the family sup- ied with fresh meat.

And Abraham, with chopping and hewing ıd hunting and trapping, was very busy for a ttle boy. He had but little time to play; and,

since he had no playmates, we cannot kn whether he even wanted to play.

With his mother, he read over and over t Bible stories which both of them loved so we And, during the cold, stormy days, when could not leave the camp, his mother taught hi how to write.

In the spring the new house was raised. was only a hewed log house, with one room b low and a loft above. But it was so much be ter than the old cabin in Kentucky that it seem like a palace.

The family had become so tired of living the "camp," that they moved into the new hou before the floor was laid, or any door hung the doorway.

Then came the plowing and the planting an the hoeing. Everybody was busy from da light to dark. There were so many trees an stumps that there was but little room for th corn to grow.

The summer passed, and autumn came. The the poor mother's strength gave out. She cou

no longer go about her household duties. She had to depend more and more upon the help that her children could give her.

At length she became too feeble to leave her bed. She called her boy to her side. She put her arms about him and said: "Abraham, I am going away from you, and you will never see me again. I know that you will always be good and kind to your sister and father. Try to live as I have taught you, and to love your heavenly Father."

On the 5th of October she fell asleep, never to wake again.

Under a big sycamore tree, half a mile from the house, the neighbors dug the grave for the mother of Abraham Lincoln. And there they buried her in silence and great sorrow.

There was no minister there to conduct religious services. In all that new country there was no church; and no holy man could be found to speak words of comfort and hope to the grieving ones around the grave.

But the boy, Abraham, remembered a travel-

ing preacher, whom they had known in tucky. The name of this preacher was I Elkin. If he would only come!

And so, after all was over, the lad sat and wrote a letter to David Elkin. He was on a child nine years old, but he believed that th good man would remember his poor mother, an come.

It was no easy task to write a letter. Pape and ink were not things of common use, as the are with us. A pen had to be made from th quill of a goose.

But at last the letter was finished and sen away. How it was carried I do not know; fo the mails were few and far between in thos days, and postage was very high. It is mor than likely that some friend, who was going int Kentucky, undertook to have it finally handed to the good preacher.

Months passed. The leaves were again on the trees. The wild flowers were blossoming in the woods. At last the preacher came.

He had ridden a hundred miles on horseback

he had forded rivers, and traveled through pathless woods; he had dared the dangers of the wild forest: all in answer to the lad's beseeching letter.

He had no hope of reward, save that which is given to every man who does his duty. He did not know that there would come a time when the greatest preachers in the world would envy him his sad task.

And now the friends and neighbors gathered again under the great sycamore tree. The funeral sermon was preached. Hymns were sung. A prayer was offered. Words of comfort and sympathy were spoken.

From that time forward the mind of Abraham Lincoln was filled with a high and noble purpose. In his earliest childhood his mother had taught him to love truth and justice, to be honest and upright among men, and to reverence God. These lessons he never forgot.

Long afterward, when the world had come to know him as a very great man, he said: "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

III.—The New Mother.

The log house, which Abraham Lincoln called his home, was now more lonely and cheerless than before. The sunlight of his mother's presence had gone out of it forever.

His sister Sarah, twelve years old, was the housekeeper and cook. His father had not yet found time to lay a floor in the house, or to hang a door. There were great crevices between the logs, through which the wind and the rain drifted on every stormy day. There was not much comfort in such a house.

But the lad was never idle. In the long winter days, when there was no work to be done, he spent the time in reading or in trying to improve his writing.

There were very few books in the cabins of that backwoods settlement. But if Abraham Lincoln heard of one, he could not rest till he had borrowed it and read it.

Another summer passed, and then another winter. Then, one day, Mr. Lincoln went on a

visit to Kentucky, leaving his two children and their cousin, Dennis Hanks, at home to care for the house and the farm.

I do not know how long he stayed away, but it could not have been many weeks. One evening, the children were surprised to see a four-horse wagon draw up before the door.

Their father was in the wagon; and by his side was a kind-faced woman; and, sitting on the straw at the bottom of the wagon-bed, there were three well-dressed children—two girls and a boy.

And there were some grand things in the wagon, too. There were six split-bottomed chairs, a bureau with drawers, a wooden chest, and a feather bed. All these things were very wonderful to the lad and lassie who had never known the use of such luxuries.

"Abraham and Sarah," said Mr. Lincoln, as he leaped from the wagon, "I have brought you a new mother and a new brother and two new sisters."

The new mother greeted them very kindly,

and, no doubt, looked with gentle pity upo them. They were barefooted ; their scant cloth ing was little more than rags and tatters ; the did not look much like her own happy childrer whom she had cared for so well.

And now it was not long until a great chang was made in the Lincoln home. A floor wa laid, a door was hung, a window was made, th crevices between the logs were daubed with clay

The house was furnished in fine style, with th chairs and the bureau and the feather bed. Th kind, new mother brought sunshine and hop into the place that had once been so cheerless.

With the young lad, Dennis Hanks, there wer now six children in the family. But all were treated with the same kindness ; all had the same motherly care. And so, in the midst of much hard work, there were many pleasant days for them all.

IV.—School and Books.

Not very long after this, the people of the neighborhood made up their minds that they

must have a school-house. And so, one day after harvest, the men met together and chopped down trees, and built a little low-roofed log cabin to serve for that purpose.

If you could see that cabin you would think it a queer kind of school-house. There was no floor. There was only one window, and in it were strips of greased paper pasted across, instead of glass. There were no desks, but only rough benches made of logs split in halves. In one end of the room was a huge fireplace; at the other end was the low doorway.

The first teacher was a man whose name was Azel Dorsey. The term of school was very short; for the settlers could not afford to pay him much. It was in mid-winter, for then there was no work for the big boys to do at home.

And the big boys, as well as the girls and the smaller boys, for miles around, came in to learn what they could from Azel Dorsey. The most of the children studied only spelling; but some of the larger ones learned reading and writing and arithmetic.

There were not very many scholars, for th houses in that new settlement were few and fa apart. School began at an early hour in th morning, and did not close until the sun wa down.

Just how Abraham Lincoln stood in his classe I do not know; but I must believe that he stud ied hard and did everything as well as he could In the arithmetic which he used, he wrote thes lines:

"Abraham Lincoln,
His hand and pen,
He will be good,
But God knows when."

In a few weeks, Azel Dorsey's school came to a close; and Abraham Lincoln was again as busy as ever about his father's farm. After that he attended school only two or three short terms. If all his school-days were put together they would not make a twelve-month.

But he kept on reading and studying at home. His step-mother said of him: "He read every-thing he could lay his hands on. When he came

across a passage that struck him, he would write it down on boards, if he had no paper, and keep it until he had got paper. Then he would copy it, look at it, commit it to memory, and repeat it."

Among the books that he read were the Bible, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the poems of Robert Burns. One day he walked a long distance to borrow a book of a farmer. This book was Weems's *Life of Washington*. He read as much as he could while walking home.

By that time it was dark, and so he sat down by the chimney and read by firelight until bedtime. Then he took the book to bed with him in the loft, and read by the light of a tallow candle.

In an hour the candle burned out. He laid the book in a crevice between two of the logs of the cabin, so that he might begin reading again as soon as it was daylight.

But in the night a storm came up. The rain was blown in, and the book was wet through and through.

In the morning, when Abraham awoke, he saw

what had happened. He dried the leaves as well as he could, and then finished reading the book.

As soon as he had eaten his breakfast, he hurried to carry the book to its owner. He explained how the accident had happened.

"Mr. Crawford," he said, "I am willing to pay you for the book. I have no money; but, if you will let me, I will work for you until I have made its price."

Mr. Crawford thought that the book was worth seventy-five cents, and that Abraham's work would be worth about twenty-five cents a day. And so the lad helped the farmer gather corn for three days, and thus became the owner of the delightful book.

He read the story of Washington many times over. He carried the book with him to the field, and read it while he was following the plow.

From that time, Washington was the one great hero whom he admired. Why could not he model his own life after that of Washington? Why could not he also be a doer of great things for his country?

V.—Life in the Backwoods.

Abraham Lincoln now set to work with a will o educate himself. His father thought that he id not need to learn anything more. He did ot see that there was any good in book-learning. f a man could read and write and cipher, what nore was needed?

But the good step-mother thought differently; nd when another short term of school began in he little log school-house, all six of the children rom the Lincoln cabin were among the scholars.

In a few weeks, however, the school had losed; and the three boys were again hard at vork, chopping and grubbing in Mr. Lincoln's learings. They were good-natured, jolly young ellows, and they lightened their labor with nany a joke and playful prank.

Many were the droll stories with which Abraam amused his two companions. Many were he puzzling questions that he asked. Sometimes in the evening, with the other five children around him, he would declaim some piece that

he had learned; or he would deliver a speec of his own on some subject of common interes

If you could see him as he then appeared, yo would hardly think that such a boy would ev become one of the most famous men of histor On his head he wore a cap made from the ski of a squirrel or a raccoon. Instead of trouser of cloth, he wore buckskin breeches, the legs o which were many inches too short. His shi was of deerskin in the winter, and of homespu tow in the summer. Stockings he had non His shoes were of heavy cowhide, and wer worn only on Sundays or in very cold weathe

The family lived in such a way as to need ver little money. Their bread was made of cor meal. Their meat was chiefly the flesh of wil game found in the forest.

Pewter plates and wooden trenchers wer used on the table. The tea and coffee cups were o painted tin. There was no stove, and all the cook ing was done on the hearth of the big fireplace

But poverty was no hindrance to Abraham Lincoln. He kept on with his reading and hi

tudies as best he could. Sometimes he would go to the little village of Gentryville, near by, to spend an evening. He would tell so many jokes and so many funny stories, that all the people would gather round him to listen.

When he was sixteen years old he went one day to Booneville, fifteen miles away, to attend a trial in court. He had never been in court before. He listened with great attention to all that was said. When the lawyer for the defense made his speech, the youth was so full of delight that he could not contain himself.

He arose from his seat, walked across the court-room, and shook hands with the lawyer. "That was the best speech I ever heard," he said.

He was tall and very slim; he was dressed in a jeans coat and buckskin trousers; his feet were bare. It must have been a strange sight to see him thus complimenting an old and practiced lawyer.

From that time, one ambition seemed to fill his mind. He wanted to be a lawyer and make great speeches in court. He walked twelve miles

barefooted, to borrow a copy of the laws of I
diana. Day and night he read and studied.

"Some day I shall be President of the Unite
States," he said to some of his young friend
And this he said not as a joke, but in the firr
belief that it would prove to be true.

VI.—The Boatman.

One of Thomas Lincoln's friends owned
ferry-boat on the Ohio River. It was nothin
but a small rowboat, and would carry only thre
or four people at a time. This man wanted t
employ some one to take care of his boat an
to ferry people across the river.

Thomas Lincoln was in need of money; an
so he arranged with his friend for Abraham to d
this work. The wages of the young man were
to be $2.50 a week. But all the money was to b
his father's.

One day two strangers came to the landing
They wanted to take passage on a steamboat
that was coming down the river. The ferry-boy

signalled to the steamboat and it stopped in mid-stream. Then the boy rowed out with the two passengers, and they were taken on board.

Just as he was turning towards the shore again, each of the strangers tossed a half-dollar into his boat. He picked the silver up and looked at it. Ah, how rich he felt! He had never had so much money at one time. And he had gotten all for a few minutes' labor!

When winter came on, there were fewer people who wanted to cross the river. So, at last, the ferry-boat was tied up, and Abraham Lincoln went back to his father's home.

He was now nineteen years old. He was very tall—nearly six feet four inches in height. He was as strong as a young giant. He could jump higher and farther, and he could run faster, than any of his fellows; and there was no one, far or near, who could lay him on his back.

Although he had always lived in a community of rude, rough people, he had no bad habits. He used no tobacco; he did not drink strong liquor; no profane word ever passed his lips.

He was good-natured at all times, and kind to every one.

During that winter, Mr. Gentry, the store keeper in the village, had bought a good deal of corn and pork. He intended, in the spring, to load this on a flatboat and send it down the river to New Orleans.

In looking about for a captain to take charge of the boat, he happened to think of Abraham Lincoln. He knew that he could trust the young man. And so a bargain was soon made. Abraham agreed to pilot the boat to New Orleans and to market the produce there; and Mr. Gentry was to pay his father eight dollars and a half a month for his services.

As soon as the ice had well melted from the river, the voyage was begun. Besides Captain Lincoln there was only one man in the crew, and that was a son of Mr. Gentry's.

The voyage was a long and weary one, but at last the two boatmen reached the great southern city. Here they saw many strange things of which they had never heard before. But they

soon sold their cargo and boat, and then returned home on a steamboat.

To Abraham Lincoln the world was now very different from what it had seemed before. He longed to be away from the narrow life in the woods of Spencer county. He longed to be doing something for himself—to be making for himself a fortune and a name.

But then he remembered his mother's teachings when he sat on her knee in the old Kentucky home, "Always do right." He remembered her last words, "I know you will be kind to your father."

And so he resolved to stay with his father, to work for him, and to give him all his earnings until he was twenty-one years old.

VII.—The First Years in Illinois.

Early in the spring of 1830, Thomas Lincoln sold his farm in Indiana, and the whole family moved to Illinois. The household goods were put in a wagon drawn by four yoke of oxen.

The kind step-mother and her daughters rode also in the wagon.

Abraham Lincoln, with a long whip in his hand, trudged through the mud by the side of the road and guided the oxen. Who that saw him thus going into Illinois would have dreamed that he would in time become that state's greatest citizen?

The journey was a long and hard one; but in two weeks they reached Decatur, where they had decided to make their new home.

Abraham Lincoln was now over twenty-one years old. He was his own man. But he stayed with his father that spring. He helped him fence his land; he helped him plant his corn.

But his father had no money to give him. The young man's clothing was all worn out, and he had nothing with which to buy any more. What should he do?

Three miles from his father's cabin there lived a thrifty woman, whose name was Nancy Miller. Mrs. Miller owned a flock of sheep, and in her house there were a spinning-wheel and a loom that were always busy. And so you must know

that she wove a great deal of jeans and home-made cloth.

Abraham Lincoln bargained with this woman to make him a pair of trousers. He agreed that for each yard of cloth required, he would split for her four hundred rails.

He had to split fourteen hundred rails in all; but he worked so fast that he had finished them before the trousers were ready.

The next April saw young Lincoln piloting another flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans. His companion this time was his mother's relative, John Hanks. This time he stayed longer in New Orleans, and he saw some things which he had barely noticed on his first trip.

He saw gangs of slaves being driven through the streets. He visited the slave-market, and saw women and girls sold to the highest bidder like so many cattle.

The young man, who would not be unkind to any living being, was shocked by these sights. "His heart bled; he was mad, thoughtful, sad, and depressed."

He said to John Hanks, "If I ever get a chanc to hit that institution, I'll hit it hard, John."

He came back from New Orleans in July. Mr Offut, the owner of the flatboat which he had taken down, then employed him to act as clerk in a country store which he had at New Salem.

New Salem was a little town not far from Springfield.

Young Lincoln was a good salesman, and all the customers liked him. Mr. Offut declared that the young man knew more than anyone else in the United States, and that he could outrun and outwrestle any man in the county.

But in the spring of the next year Mr. Offut failed. The store was closed, and Abraham Lincoln was out of employment again.

VIII.—The Black Hawk War.

There were still a good many Indians in the West. The Sac Indians had lately sold their lands in northern Illinois to the United States. They had then moved across the Mississippi

river, to other lands that had been set apart for them.

But they did not like their new home. At last they made up their minds to go back to their former hunting-grounds. They were led by a chief whose name was Black Hawk; and they began by killing the white settlers and burning their houses and crops.

This was in the spring of 1832.

The whole state of Illinois was in alarm. The governor called for volunteers to help the United States soldiers drive the Indians back.

Abraham Lincoln enlisted. His company elected him captain.

He did not know anything about military tactics. He did not know how to give orders to his men. But he did the best that he could, and learned a great deal by experience.

His company marched northward and westward until they came to the Mississippi river. But they did not meet any Indians, and so there was no fighting.

The young men under Captain Lincoln were

rude fellows from the prairies and backwoods They were rough in their manners, and hard to control. But they had very high respect for their captain.

Perhaps this was because of his great strength, and his skill in wrestling ; for he could put the roughest and strongest of them on their backs. Perhaps it was because he was good-natured and kind, and, at the same time, very firm and decisive.

In a few weeks the time for which the company had enlisted came to an end. The young men were tired of being soldiers ; and so all, except Captain Lincoln and one man, were glad to hurry home.

But Captain Lincoln never gave up anything half done. He enlisted again. This time he was a private in a company of mounted rangers.

The main camp of the volunteers and soldiers was on the banks of the Rock river, in northern Illinois.

Here, one day, Abraham Lincoln saw a young lieutenant of the United States army, whose

name was Jefferson Davis. It is not likely that the fine young officer noticed the rough-clad ranger; but they were to know more of each other at a future time.

Three weeks after that the war was at an end. The Indians had been beaten in a battle, and Black Hawk had been taken prisoner.

But Abraham Lincoln had not been in any fight. He had not seen any Indians, except peaceable ones.

In June his company was mustered out, and he returned home to New Salem.

He was then twenty-three years old.

IX.—In the Legislature.

When Abraham Lincoln came back to New Salem it was nearly time for the state election. The people of the town and neighborhood wanted to send him to the legislature, and he agreed to be a candidate.

It was at Pappsville, twelve miles from Springfield, that he made his first campaign speech.

He said: "Gentlemen and fellow-citizens—

"I presume you all know who I am.

"I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by my friends to become a candidate for the legislature.

"My politics are short and sweet.

"I am in favor of a national bank; am in favor of the internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff.

"These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same."

He was a tall, gawky, rough-looking fellow. He was dressed in a coarse suit of homespun, much the worse for wear.

A few days after that, he made a longer and better speech at Springfield.

But he was not elected.

About this time a worthless fellow, whose name was Berry, persuaded Mr. Lincoln to help him buy a store in New Salem. Mr. Lincoln had no money, but he gave his notes for the value of half the goods.

The venture was not a profitable one. In a few months the store was sold; but Abraham did not receive a dollar for it. It was six years before he was able to pay off the notes which he had given.

During all this time Mr. Lincoln did not give up the idea of being a lawyer. He bought a second-hand copy of *Blackstone's Commentaries* at auction. He studied it so diligently that in a few weeks he had mastered the whole of it.

He bought an old form-book, and began to draw up contracts, deeds, and all kinds of legal papers.

He would often walk to Springfield, fourteen miles away, to borrow a book; and he would master thirty or forty pages of it while returning home.

Soon he began to practice in a small way before justices of the peace and country juries. He was appointed postmaster at New Salem, but so little mail came to the place that the office was soon discontinued.

He was nearly twenty-five years old. But,

with all his industry, he could hardly earn mone enough to pay for his board and clothing.

He had learned a little about surveying whil living in Indiana. He now took up the stud again, and was soon appointed deputy surveyo of Sangamon county.

He was very skilful as a surveyor. Althougl his chain was only a grape-vine, he was very ac curate and never made mistakes.

The next year he was again a candidate fo the legislature. This time the people were ready to vote for him, and he was elected. It was n small thing for so young a man to be chosen t help make the laws of his state.

No man ever had fewer advantages than Abraham Lincoln. As a boy, he was the poorest of the poor. No rich friend held out a helping hand. But see what he had already accomplished by pluck, perseverance, and honesty!

He had not had access to many books, but he knew books better than most men of his age. He knew the Bible by heart; he was familiar with Shakespeare; he could repeat nearly all the

poems of Burns; he knew much about physics and mechanics; he had mastered the elements of law.

He was very awkward and far from handsome, but he was so modest, so unselfish and kind, that every one who knew him liked him. He was a true gentleman—a gentleman at heart, if not in outside polish.

And so, as I have already said, Abraham Lincoln, at the age of twenty-five, was elected to the state legislature. He served the people so well that when his term closed, two years later, they sent him back for another term.

The capital of Illinois had, up to this time, been at Vandalia. Mr. Lincoln and his friends now succeeded in having a law passed to remove it to Springfield. Springfield was nearer to the centre of the state; it was more convenient to everybody, and had other advantages which Vandalia did not have.

The people of Springfield were so delighted that they urged Mr. Lincoln to come there and practice law. An older lawyer, whose name was

John T. Stuart, and who had a g[illegible] offered to take him in partnership with him.

And so, in 1837, Abraham Lincoln left New Salem and removed to Springfield. He did not have much to move. All the goods that he had in the world were a few clothes, which he carried in a pair of saddle-bags, and two or three law books. He had no money, and he rode into Springfield on a borrowed horse.

He was then twenty-eight years old.

From that time on, Springfield was his home.

X.—Politics and Marriage.

The next year after his removal to Springfield, Mr. Lincoln was elected to the legislature for the third time.

There were then, in this country, two great political parties, the Democrats and the Whigs. Mr. Lincoln was a Whig, and he soon became the leader of his party in the state. But the Whigs were not so strong as the Democrats.

The legislature was in session only a few weeks

each year; and so Mr. Lincoln could devote all the rest of the time to the practice of law. There were many able lawyers in Illinois; but Abe Lincoln of Springfield soon made himself known among the best of them.

In 1840, he was again elected to the legislature. This was the year in which General William H. Harrison was elected president of the United States. General Harrison was a Whig; and Mr. Lincoln's name was on the Whig ticket as a candidate for presidential elector in his state.

The presidential campaign was one of the most exciting that had ever been known. It was called the "log cabin" campaign, because General Harrison had lived in a log cabin, and his opponents had sneered at his poverty.

In the East as well as in the West, the excitement was very great. In every city and town and village, wherever there was a political meeting, a log cabin was seen. On one side of the low door hung a long-handled gourd; on the other side, a coon-skin was nailed to the logs;

the blue smoke curled up from the top of the stick-and-clay chimney.

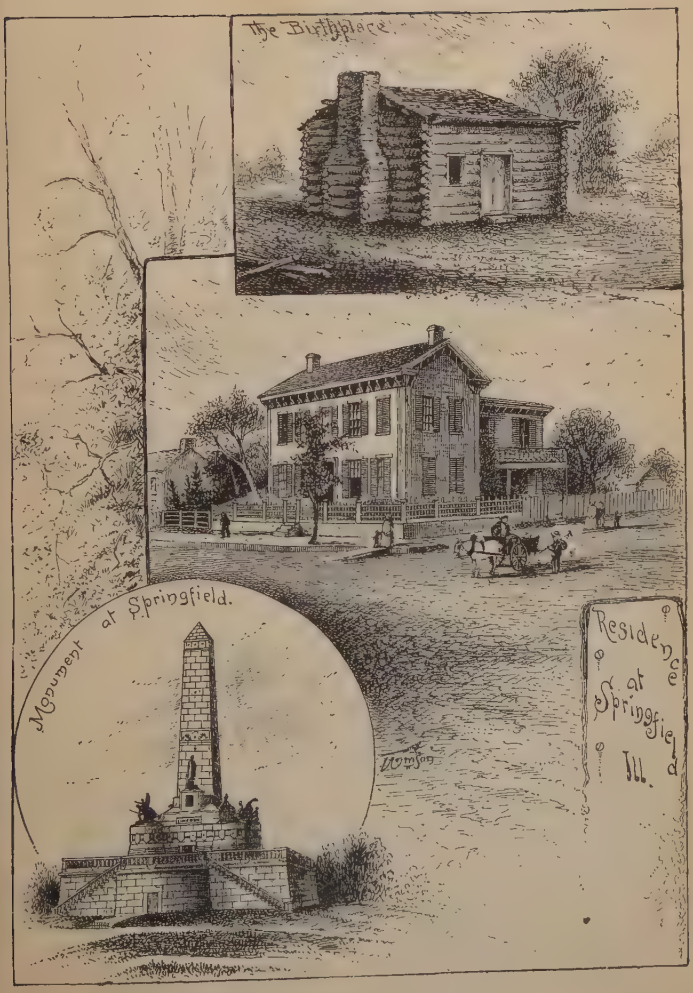
You may believe that Abraham Lincoln went into this campaign with all his heart. He traveled over a part of the state, making stump-speeches for his party.

One of his ablest opponents was a young lawyer, not quite his own age, whose name was Stephen A. Douglas. In many places, during this campaign, Lincoln and Douglas met in public debate upon the questions of the day. And both of them were so shrewd, so well informed, and so eloquent, that those who heard them were unable to decide which was the greater of the two.

General Harrison was elected, but not through the help of Mr. Lincoln; for the vote of Illinois that year was for the Democratic candidate.

In 1842, when he was thirty-three years old, Mr. Lincoln was married to Miss Mary Todd, a young lady from Kentucky, who had lately come to Springfield on a visit.

For some time after their marriage, Mr. and


The Birthplace.
Monument at Springfield.
Residence at Springfield Ill.

Mrs. Lincoln lived in a hotel called the "Globe Tavern," paying four dollars a week for rooms and board. But, in 1844, Mr. Lincoln bought a small, but comfortable frame house, and in this they lived until they went to the White House, seventeen years later.

Although he had been successful as a young lawyer, Mr. Lincoln was still a poor man. But Mrs. Lincoln said: "I would rather have a good man, a man of mind, with bright prospects for success and power and fame, than marry one with all the horses and houses and gold in the world."

XI.—Congressman and Lawyer.

In 1846, Mr. Lincoln was again elected to the legislature.

In the following year the people of his district chose him to be their representative in Congress. He took his seat in December. He was then thirty-nine years old. He was the only Whig from Illinois.

There were many famous men in Congress at

that time. Mr. Lincoln's life-long rival, Stephen A. Douglas, was one of the senators from Illinois. He had already served a term or two in the House of Representatives.

Daniel Webster was also in the Senate; and so was John C. Calhoun; and so was Jefferson Davis.

Mr. Lincoln took an active interest in all the subjects that came before Congress. He made many speeches. But, perhaps, the most important thing that he did at this time was to propose a bill for the abolition of the slave-trade in the city of Washington.

He believed that slavery was unjust to the slave and harmful to the nation. He wanted to do what he could to keep it from becoming a still greater evil. But the bill was opposed so strongly that it was not even voted upon.

After the close of Mr. Lincoln's term in Congress, he hoped that President Taylor, who was a Whig, might appoint him to a good office. But in this he was disappointed.

And so, in 1849, he returned to his home in

Springfield, and again settled down to the practice of law.

He was then forty years old. Considering the poverty of his youth, he had done great things for himself. But he had not done much for his country. Outside of his own state his name was still unknown.

His life for the next few years was like that of any other successful lawyer in the newly-settled West. He had a large practice, but his fees were very small. His income from his profession was seldom more than $2,000 a year.

His habits were very simple. He lived comfortably and respectably. In his modest little home there was an air of order and refinement, but no show of luxury.

No matter where he might go, Mr. Lincoln would have been known as a Western man. He was six feet four inches in height. His face was very homely, but very kind.

He was cordial and friendly in his manners. There was something about him which made everybody feel that he was a sincere, truthful,

upright man. He was known among his neighbors as "Honest Abe Lincoln."

XII.—The Question of Slavery.

The great subject before the country at this time was slavery. It had been the cause of trouble for many years.

In the early settlement of the American colonies, slavery had been introduced through the influence of the English government. The first slaves had been brought to Virginia nearly 240 years before the time of which I am telling you.

Many people saw from the beginning that it was an evil which would at some distant day bring disaster upon the country. In 1772, the people of Virginia petitioned the king of England to put a stop to the bringing of slaves from Africa into that colony. But the petition was rejected and the king forbade them to speak of the matter any more.

Washington, Jefferson, and other founders of our nation looked upon slavery as an evil. They

hoped that the time might come when it would be done away with; for they knew that the country would prosper better without it.

At the time of the Revolution, slavery was permitted in all the states. But it was gradually abolished, first in Pennsylvania and then in the New England states, and afterwards in New York.

In 1787, a law was passed by Congress declaring that there should be no slavery in the territory northwest of the river Ohio. This was the territory from which the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin were formed; and so, of course, these states were free states from the beginning.

The great industry of the South was cotton-raising. The people of the Southern states claimed that slavery was necessary, because only negro slaves could do the work required on the big cotton plantations. Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana were admitted, one by one, into the Union; and all were slave states.

In 1821, Missouri applied for admission into the

Union. The South wanted slavery in this state also, but the North objected. There were many hot debates in Congress over this question. At last, through the influence of Henry Clay, the dispute was settled by what has since been known as the Missouri Compromise.

The Missouri Compromise provided that Missouri should be a slave state; this was to satisfy the South. On the other hand, it declared that all the western territory north of the line which formed the southern boundary of Missouri, should forever be free; this was to appease the North.

But the cotton planters of the South grew more wealthy by the labor of their slaves. More territory was needed for the extension of slavery. Texas joined the United States and became a slave state.

Then followed a war with Mexico; and California, New Mexico and Utah were taken from that country. Should slavery be allowed in these new territories also?

At this time a new political party was formed.

It was called the "Free Soil Party," and the principle for which it contended was this: "*No more slave states and no slave territory.*"

This party was not very strong at first, but soon large numbers of Whigs and many northern Democrats, who did not believe in the extension of slavery, began to join it.

Although the Whig party refused to take any position against the extension of slavery, there were many anti-slavery Whigs who still remained with it and voted the Whig ticket—and one of these men was Abraham Lincoln.

The contest between freedom and slavery became more fierce every day. At last another compromise was proposed by Henry Clay.

This compromise provided that California should be admitted as a free state; that slavery should not be prohibited in New Mexico and Utah; that there should be no more markets for slaves in the District of Columbia; and that a new and very strict fugitive-slave law should be passed.

This compromise is called the "Compromise

of 1850." It was in support of these measures that Daniel Webster made his last great speech.

It was hoped by Webster and Clay that the Compromise of 1850 would put an end to the agitation about slavery. "Now we shall have peace," they said. But the agitation became stronger and stronger, and peace seemed farther away than ever before.

In 1854, a bill was passed by Congress to organize the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. This bill provided that the Missouri Compromise should be repealed, and that the question of slavery in these territories should be decided by the people living in them.

The bill was passed through the influence of Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. There was now no bar to the extension of slavery into any of the territories save that of public opinion.

The excitement all over the North was very great. In Kansas there was actual war between those who favored slavery and those who opposed it. Thinking men in all parts of the country saw that a great crisis was at hand.

XIII.—Lincoln and Douglas.

It was then that Abraham Lincoln came forward as the champion of freedom.

Stephen A. Douglas was a candidate for re-election to the Senate, and he found it necessary to defend himself before the people of his state for the part he had taken in repealing the Missouri Compromise. He went from one city to another, making speeches; and at each place Abraham Lincoln met him in joint debate.

"I do not care whether slavery is voted into or out of the territories," said Mr. Douglas. "The question of slavery is one of climate. Wherever it is to the interest of the inhabitants of a territory to have slave property, there a slave law will be enacted."

But Mr. Lincoln replied, "The men who signed the Declaration of Independence said that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . . . I beseech you, do not destroy that immortal em-

blem of humanity, the Declaration of Independence."

At last, Mr. Douglas felt that he was beaten. He proposed that both should go home, and that there should be no more joint discussions. Mr. Lincoln agreed to this; but the words which he had spoken sank deep into the hearts of those who heard them.

The speeches of Lincoln and Douglas were printed in a book. People in all parts of the country read them. They had heard much about Stephen A. Douglas. He was called "The Little Giant." He had long been famous among the politicians of the country. It was believed that he would be the next President of the United States.

But who was this man Lincoln, who had so bravely vanquished the Little Giant? He was called "Honest Abe." There were few people outside of his state who had ever heard of him before.

Mr. Douglas returned to his seat in the United States Senate. Mr. Lincoln became the acknowl-

edged leader of the forces opposed to the extension of slavery.

In May, 1856, a convention of the people of Illinois was held in Bloomington, Illinois. It met for the purpose of forming a new political party, the chief object and aim of which should be to oppose the extension of slavery into the territories.

Mr. Lincoln made a speech to the members of this convention. It was one of the greatest speeches ever heard in this country. "Again and again, during the delivery, the audience sprang to their feet, and, by long-continued cheers, expressed how deeply the speaker had roused them."

And so the new party was organized. It was composed of the men who had formed the old Free Soil Party, together with such Whigs and Democrats as were opposed to the further growth of the slave power. But the greater number of its members were Whigs. This new party was called The Republican Party.

In June, the Republican Party held a national

convention at Philadelphia, and nominated John C. Frémont for President. But the party was not strong enough to carry the election that year.

In that same month the Democrats held a convention at Cincinnati. Every effort was made to nominate Stephen A. Douglas for President. But he was beaten in his own party, on account of the action which he had taken in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.

James Buchanan was nominated in his stead, and, in November, was elected.

And so the conflict went on.

In the year 1858 there was another series of joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas. Both were candidates for the United States Senate. Their speeches were among the most remarkable ever delivered in any country.

Lincoln spoke for liberty and justice. Douglas's speeches were full of fire and patriotism. He hoped to be elected President in 1860. In the end, it was generally acknowledged that Lincoln had made the best arguments. But Douglas was re-elected to the Senate.

XIV.—President of the United States.

In 1860 there were four candidates for the presidency.

The great Democratic Party was divided into two branches. One branch nominated Stephen A. Douglas. The other branch, which included the larger number of the slave-owners of the South, nominated John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky.

The remnant of the old Whig Party, now called the "Union Party," nominated John Bell, of Tennessee.

The Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln.

In November came the election, and a majority of all the electors chosen were for Lincoln.

The people of the cotton-growing states believed that, by this election, the Northern people intended to deprive them of their rights. They believed that the anti-slavery people intended to do much more than prevent the extension of slavery. They believed that the abolitionists

were bent upon passing laws to deprive them of their slaves.

Wild rumors were circulated concerning the designs which the "Black Republicans," as they were called, had formed for their coercion and oppression. They declared that they would never submit.

And so, in December, the people of South Carolina met in convention, and declared that that state had seceded from the Union—that they would no longer be citizens of the United States. One by one, six other states followed; and they united to form a new government, called the Confederate States of America.

It had long been held by the men of the South that a state had the right to withdraw from the Union at any time. This was called the doctrine of States' Rights.

The Confederate States at once chose Jefferson Davis for their President, and declared themselves free and independent.

In February, Mr. Lincoln went to Washington to be inaugurated. His enemies openly boasted

that he should never reach that city alive; and a plot was formed to kill him on his passage through Baltimore. But he took an earlier train than the one appointed, and arrived at the capital in safety.

On the 4th of March he was inaugurated. In his address at that time he said: "In your hands, my dissatisfied countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. Your government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government; while I shall have the most solemn one to protect and defend it."

The Confederate States demanded that the government should give up all the forts, arsenals, and public property within their limits. This, President Lincoln refused to do. He said that he could not admit that these states had withdrawn from the Union, or that they could withdraw without the consent of the people of the United States, given in a national convention.

And so, in April, the Confederate guns were

turned upon Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, and the war was begun. President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 men to serve in the army for three months ; and both parties prepared for the great contest.

It is not my purpose to give a history of that terrible war of four years. The question of slavery was now a secondary one. The men of one party were determined, at whatever hazard, to preserve the Union. The men of the other party fought to defend their doctrine of States' Rights, and to set up an independent government of their own.

President Lincoln was urged to use his power and declare all the slaves free. He answered :

"My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery.

"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it. If I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it. If I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

At last, however, when he saw that the success of the Union arms depended upon his freeing

the slaves, he decided to do so. On the 1st of January, 1863, he issued a proclamation declaring that the slaves, in all the states or parts of states then in rebellion, should be free.

By this proclamation, more than three millions of colored people were given their freedom.

But the war still went on. It reached a turning point, however, at the battle of Gettysburg, in July, that same year. From that time the cause of the Confederate States was on the wane. Little by little the patriots, who were struggling for the preservation of the Union, prevailed.

XIV.—The End of a Great Life.

At the close of Mr. Lincoln's first term, he was again elected President of the United States. The war was still going on, but the Union arms were now everywhere victorious.

His second inaugural address was very short. He did not boast of any of his achievements; he did not rejoice over the defeat of his enemies. But he said:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Five weeks after that, on the 9th of April, 1865, the Confederate army surrendered, and the war was at an end.

Abraham Lincoln's work was done.

The 14th of April was Good Friday. On the evening of that day, Mr. Lincoln, with Mrs. Lincoln and two or three friends, visited Ford's Theatre in Washington.

At a few minutes past 10 o'clock, an actor whose name was John Wilkes Booth, came into the box where Mr. Lincoln sat. No one saw him enter. He pointed a pistol at the President's head, and fired. He leaped down upon the stage, shouting "*Sic semper tyrannis!* The

South is avenged!" Then he ran behind the scenes and out by the stage door.

The President fell forward. His eyes closed. He neither saw, nor heard, nor felt anything that was taking place. Kind arms carried him to a private house not far away.

At twenty minutes past seven o'clock the next morning, those who watched beside him gave out the mournful news that Abraham Lincoln was dead.

He was fifty-six years old.

The whole nation wept for him. In the South as well as in the North, the people bowed themselves in grief. Heartfelt tributes of sorrow came from other lands in all parts of the world. Never, before nor since, has there been such universal mourning.

Such is the story of Abraham Lincoln. In the history of the world, there is no story more full of lessons of perseverance, of patience, of honor, of true nobility of purpose. Among the great men of all time, there has been no one more truly great than he.

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